

Danteggiare

Russell Spera & Barrie Tullett

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Danteggiare

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This Artists' Book was inspired by a comment made by
Chris McCabe at the National Poetry Library during the
installation of the exhibition *The Typographic Dante*.

The title *Danteggiare* was taken from an article written about the
exhibition by Mika Provata-Carlone

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Danteggiare

A collection of translations and
interpretations of the first terza rima tercet
of Dante's Inferno.

1591-2021

Russell Spera & Barrie Tullett

382 AD Biblia Sacra Vulgata (Vulgate): Isaias 38:10

Ego dixi in dimidio dierum meorum:
Vadam ad portas inferi;
quaesivi residuum annorum meorum.

In the middle of my days,
I am to go through the Gates of Hell.
(translated by Dale Coovert, 2021)

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Introduction

Russell Spera

*Being somewhat past the midpoint of my life,
I found myself lost in a dark digital wood,
My cursor strayed from the link; my search was lost...*

Sometimes being lost is good because, while searching for what you think is your right path, you discover a new path which turns out to be your right path. This is what happened to me. While lost and looking, clicking link after link, going deeper and deeper into the descending circles of internet hell, I stumbled upon a blog written by Barrie Tullett, and only realized later this was my right path.

I was online searching for English translations of Dante and one of my hits was a link for *The Caseroom Press*. It was there Barrie had posted pictures of a project with typographic visual representations of the cantos from Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Very cool stuff. There were also pictures of a book he was compiling which consisted of the first three lines (a tercet) of Canto 1 from various English translations of Dante's *Inferno*. In his blog he listed a few translations he was missing and needed help tracking down. I saw that not only did I have roughly half of what he was looking for, but I had dozens more translations he probably

didn't yet know existed. I bookmarked his page and revisited it a half a dozen times over the course of a few weeks before I finally reached out to him. My mind kept being drawn to his call for help, so I figured, what the hell (pun intended), the guy needs help, I'm a teacher, helping is what teachers do, and he was raising his hand, so I called on him.

We discovered over the course of those first few emails that we could be mutually beneficial to each other. I more than doubled the amount of translations he had, and he gave me the opportunity to discover my inner nerd along with a way to waste my free time. (Thanks a lot, Barrie.) Actually, I'm not sure how he got me involved; he probably raised his hand again, but the next thing I knew we were working together.

In the very beginning, I discovered that Barrie had used as one of his sources a poem called *Via: 48 Dante Variations* by Caroline Bergvall. (Don't deny it, Barrie.) If you're not familiar with this poem, it's 47 different opening tercets from Canto 1 of the *Inferno*. Each is by a different translator and the 48th variation is, in her words, 'my voice's fractals ... hardly audible, underneath the structure of the reading voice, inextricably tied to it, yet escaping it, releasing from it a surprising beauty, magnified shrapnels of interior sound. The 48th variation'¹. Originally, the poem was recorded (its first performance in 2000) but was not published in print until a few years later. I feel that the power of this poem is in the hearing. I encourage you to give it a listen.²

This is where it gets weird (or cool ... I'm going with cool).

¹ Bergvall, Caroline. *Fig.* Salt Publishing, 2004. p. 64

² <https://carolinebergvall.com/soundwork/>

I already mentioned that I was aware that Barrie had used Bergvall's poem as a source, and it just so happened that I was already in contact with Caroline about her sources. I had politely, and nervously, emailed her inquiring about a translation by Gauntlett Chaplin (yes, that's his real name) and I also happened to mention a few corrections pertaining to the translator and year of a few of the tercets. She was appreciative, and it just so happened that she was about to republish *Via* and asked if I would mind going over all the tercets before publication. I jumped at the task, it being what I consider extreme fun, and so I checked every tercet for accuracy in spelling, punctuation, wording, as well as the author and year attributions. The poem was recently republished with the corrections in *Bricks from the Kiln #4*³ and I even got a shout out in the book! Thanks, Caroline!

Since I was doing all this checking for Caroline, I decided to do the same thing for Barrie ... or maybe Barrie raised his hand. I don't remember specifically how it came about, but it amounted to the same thing. I began checking every tercet for accuracy in spelling, punctuation, wording, and verifying that the author and year attributions were correct. In addition, we tried to mimic the publication structure as presented in the first edition. Lastly, we scoured the internet (and library databases) for more examples.

When we went to a full-on search for more examples, a flood of possibilities appeared that we never knew existed. There was so much *Inferno* stuff out there that were not really translations, but paraphrases, summaries, loose adaptations, and conceptual

³ *Bricks from the Kiln #4: On Translation, Transmission & Transposition*. Edited by Natalie Ferris, Bryony Quinn, Matthew Stuart, and Andrew Walsh-Lister. Chicago, Inga, 2021. Published as an event publication.

explanations. Some were specifically geared towards children, some used contemporary backdrops and/or events, some were interspersed, in varying degrees, within commentary, and some were, well, a variety too numerous to list. We had to draw a line somewhere, so we decided that the passage had to somehow mention at least two of the three elements in the opening tercet: halfway through life, dark woods, and lost path. So basically, if the author's take on the *Inferno*'s opening lines of Canto 1 met our requirements, then it was included. I did not go out of my way to find these versions; they were typically discovered as a tangent to my primary research. There are dozens that I know of and, I am sure, dozens upon dozens more I don't. The only exception is the Niven/Pournelle *Inferno* because Larry Niven is great, science fiction rocks, and because we say so.

Two major hurdles in the research came about early in the process and continued throughout. First, there are many versions of the opening tercet of Canto 1 from the *Inferno* on the internet, and a large portion of them are not correctly attributed. This gets compounded when people copy a tercet from one place and use it on their blog, website, or merchandise without giving credit, or if they do, they credit it to Dante and not the translator. Second, I discovered that there are a number of unpublished translations of either parts or all of the *Commedia*. This in itself is not a hurdle; this is actually great news. The hurdle is that COVID has shut most of the libraries down and turned my research into a seemingly endless limbo of waiting. I'm not good at waiting.

Even with research sometimes at a crawl, there have been some interesting discoveries. My research has turned up a few 'unknown' translations. By 'unknown' I'm referring to the fact

that in the scholarly publications with lists of translations of Dante there's no mention of these translations. The fact that they are unpublished is irrelevant because these publications also include quite a few unpublished translations.

Robert Watson Wade's *Inferno* (1804) was the first one I found, and it was by accident. While trying to hunt down an unpublished *Inferno* by Thomas Wade (1846), a manuscript listed in Paget Toynbee's *Britain's Tribute to Dante*, and said to be in the Macauley Collection at the University of Pennsylvania, I contacted the library and I was told they had the manuscript, but it had never been cataloged. Eventually, they found it and sent me the scans. When I began to transcribe them, I discovered that the translation was not by Thomas Wade, but Robert Wade. I contacted the library and they were as surprised as I was! Unfortunately, while transcribing it I discovered there were 6 tercets untranslated near the end of Canto 33, as well as a few other miscellaneous lines throughout. Also, the last four tercets of Canto 34 were never finished. Though not quite completed, this could still be considered the third-ever English translation of the *Inferno* (behind Rogers, 1782; and Boyd, 1785), and would be the first of the 19th century, as it predates Cary's *Inferno* translation (1805-06) by a year.

Another exciting find was an 'unknown' translation of the complete *Commedia*. Tucked away in a small college in Maine, Bates College, is the manuscript of Arthur Peaslee's translation of *The Divine Comedy*. I have not been able, as of yet, to get a clear date as to when it was written. My best guess at this time is circa early 20th century. Along with these larger translations, there have been a few other 'unknowns' discovered, ranging from a few cantos to just a few lines. Some of them are included in this book.

Another unexpected, but fascinating discovery was that a lot of translators revised their translations in subsequent publications, and, in some cases, the revisions were significant. We only included a translator's revision if the difference seemed sufficiently substantive. This was determined on a case by case basis. For example, Geoffrey Bickersteth's translations:⁴

1955

AT midpoint of the road we mortals tread
I came to myself in a dark wood, for there
the way was lost that leads us straight ahead.

1965

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life
I woke to find me astray in a dark wood,
confused by ways with the straight way at strife.

1981

AT midpoint of the journey of our life
I woke to find me astray in a dark wood,
perplexed by paths with the straight way at strife.

In this case, we decided to include all three of Bickersteth's translations, agreeing that the differences warranted their inclusion. Of the three versions, only the 1965 and the 1981 share a common line. For comparison, here are Ichabod Wright's original and revision of the opening tercet of the *Inferno*:⁵

⁴ Look to the bibliography for more information on Bickersteth's translations.

⁵ Look to the bibliography for more information on Ichabod Wright's translation.

1833

In the midway of this our life below,
 I found myself within a gloomy wood,—
 No traces left, the path direct to show.

1854

In the mid-journey of our life below,
 I found myself within a gloomy wood,—
 No traces left, the path direct to show.

Here, you can see there was only a slight change to the first line. In this case we did not include the revision. There were quite a few translations that fell into this category, where the changes were not deemed significant enough to include.

An advantage to typing all the different translations of the opening tercet into a word document is that it made comparisons of the different translations quick and easy. It would be useful if all of Dante's translations were in one huge database, so comparisons like this could be made and studied in greater detail. I think this would be a great boon to the field of Dante Studies or Translation Studies in general.

I did some comparisons of the opening line and of the opening tercets for fun (while taking a break from the bibliography) and what I found was interesting. I started with John A. Carlyle's translation (because his was the first literal prose translation) and when I read different translations, I was quite often struck by how similar so many of them were to Carlyle. Truth be told, when I first started researching Dante translations, I used to think that Longfellow took Carlyle's translation and tweaked it just a little bit because of the strong similarities between the

two. The idea came to me after reading an article by Robert Hollander in which he demonstrates how Charles S. Singleton possibly plagiarized (Hollander uses the term ‘hidden debt’s’) both John Sinclair and Thomas Okey. Here are all the translators that have Carlyle’s exact first line:

In the middle of the journey of our life

1849 Carlyle

1939 Sinclair

1954 Huse

1989 Tinkler-Villani

1993 Heaney

1996 Durling

2000 Kline

2000 Philcox

2000 Schwerner

2007 Salvidio

2008 Simone

2008 Tonnard

2017 Harris

2019 Google Translate

I picked just a few of the above translations and extended the line to the tercet. I restructured the prose translations to form a tercet to make the comparisons easier to see:

1849 Carlyle

In the middle of the journey of our life,

I found myself in a dark wood;

for the straight way was lost.

1939 Sinclair

In the middle of the journey of our life
I came to myself within a dark wood
where the straight way was lost.

1996 Durling

In the middle of the journey of our life
I came to myself in a dark wood
for the straight way was lost.

2000 Kline

In the middle of the journey of our life
I came to myself in a dark wood
where the direct way was lost.

2000 Hollander

Midway in the journey of our life
I came to myself in a dark wood
for the straight way was lost.

It's easy to see the strong similarities between these tercets. Note that all the second lines also happen to be identical (except Sinclair who used 'within' instead of 'in'), and that there are only slight variations in the third line. Again, a fascinating comparative study could be generated with a database of all Dante's translations.

My own interest in Dante and the genesis of my Dante book collection came about in a convoluted and roundabout way. There were quite a few events spread out over many years that eventually coalesced into this current passion.

It all started with *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, which I first

read in the early 1970's, when I was 8 or 9 years old. This led to *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, and for Christmas in 1979, I received a hardcover copy of *The Silmarillion*. Unlike most Tolkien fans, this is my favorite book. After that, I bought each new posthumous release of Tolkien in a pristine hardcover and read it. Since there were rarely any 'new' Tolkien books, I started looking into all things Tolkien-related. In a pre-internet world, this meant driving for hours to used bookstores on the off chance that there might be a Tolkien-related book that I didn't know existed because there were no lists of Tolkien-related material. It was during this time I honed my knowledge of book collecting, for the collecting bug had bit me hard.

In 2001 I became a high school English teacher and I taught seniors English 4. This seemed like fate since it included such stories as *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Before I started teaching, I already knew *Beowulf* was studied in school because of Tolkien. He wrote *The Monsters and the Critics*, which argued that *Beowulf* should be studied as a serious piece of literature, which is now common practice. Also, to be perfectly honest, he basically lifted the dragon scene from *Beowulf* and used it in *The Hobbit*. In the textbook I used, *The Canterbury Tales* was translated by Neville Coghill, who was a fellow Inkling with Tolkien. I was already familiar with Tolkien's translation of *Sir Gawain*, his work with the medieval scholars A.J. Bliss and Kenneth Sisam, and it was all this coming together that started my journey down the path of Medieval Literature.

Around 2010, the video game *Dante's Inferno* was released. Many students were playing it, and when I realized that the

majority of them didn't know that the game was based on a poem, I felt compelled to correct that egregious error, and therefore added a unit on that to my curriculum

Forward to 2012. I was getting my Masters in English Literature, focusing on Medieval Literature, and for my thesis I was translating *King Horn*, the oldest English Medieval Romance written in early middle English. This really got me into translating. At the same time, I happened to be teaching the *Inferno* and thought that for fun (yeah, I said fun) I would try to translate Canto 1 of the *Inferno*, but modernize it and use contemporary people. I didn't know at the time that this had already been done. I had Einstein in the place of Virgil, and of course Tolkien was in it. I was busy with the translation of *King Horn*, so I couldn't devote much time to the canto. Then I hit writer's block (translator's block?) with *King Horn*, took a break, and focused on the *Inferno*, hoping that by changing the text to a different style, it would re-invigorate my medieval translation. I was having a slow and difficult time translating the *Infernos*, so I bought the 1849 literal translation by John Carlyle. There were passages, when translated, that still made no sense, so I looked into other translations and soon discovered that there were an overwhelming number of English translations of Dante. After finding and reading a few contemporary versions of the *Inferno*, I didn't like any of them, so I dropped my contemporary translation of Canto 1, tried it in haiku form, dropped that, then settled on iambic pentameter with terza rima.

Since my Tolkien collection was essentially at an end (I either have it or I can't afford it), I turned my collecting passion to first editions of English translations of Dante, specifically, the *Divine Comedy* or its parts (cantiche). Coming full circle, it was

my search for these first editions that brought me to Barrie, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Two final notes. First the text. If the tercet is in italics, this indicates that the translation came from an unpublished manuscript. If the tercet is in all capital letters, this indicates that it came from a comic or graphic novel.

Finally, I think it's important for me to thank the people who, without their help, whether small or large, this project would not be what it is today. Obviously, first is Barrie, who raised his hand and got me involved. Thanks to my fiancé, Brigitte Coovert, for her support during my long hours of research. Thanks also to her father, Dale Lee Coovert, who looks over everything I write and gives stellar advice. Christian Dupont gets a special thank-you for putting the idea of focusing on unpublished translations into my head ... and then gave me advice and the resources to help make it happen. Thanks to Simone Marchesi for patiently answering even my most basic questions, Mitch Fraas and Donna Brandolisio at the University of Pennsylvania for their help hunting down the Wade manuscript, Tim Smith for his help early in my research, and Tom Pawlowski for last minute editorial advice. Finally, thank-you to Caroline Bergvall, Patrick Worsnip, Leon Stephens, Patrick Boyde, Marc Sonzogni, the various personnel at the Bodleian and British Libraries, and everyone else who patiently answered my persistent and sometimes annoying emails. Without their help, my part in this project would not have been possible.

R.S.

The Inferno

1314

Dante Alighieri

*Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita
mi ritrovai per una selva oscura,
ché la diritta via era smarrita.*

1591

Sir John Harington

VWhile yet my life was in her middle race,
I found, I wandred in a darksome wood,
The right way lost with mine unstedie pace.

1782

William Hayley

IN the mid seafon of this mortal strife,
I found myself within a gloomy grove,
Far wandering from the ways of perfect life:

1782

Charles Rogers

WHEN in my middle Stage of Life, I found
Myself entangl'd in a wood obscure,
Having the right path miss'd:

1785

Henry Boyd

WHEN life had labour'd up her midmost stage,
And, weary with her mortal pilgrimage,
Stood in suspense upon the point of Prime;
Far in a pathless grove I chanc'd to stray

c. 1785

William Parsons

*Lifes journey half was o'er, when far away
From the right track, my footsteps chanced to stray
Thro' a dark forest, dreary, wild & rude
Dreadful with dangers, sad in solitude
Whose silent horrors, & whose gloom twere
Tho' but in thought alarm & wakes my fear.*

1804

Robert Watson Wade

*When I had travell'd half life's journey o'er
I found myself within a dreary wood
For I from the right path had widely stray'd.*

1805

Rev. Henry Francis Cary

IN the midway of this our mortal life,
I found me in a gloomy wood, astray
Gone from the path direct:

1807

Nathaniel Howard

As journeying midway on the road of life,
Bewilder'd in a dusky wood, aghast !
I stray'd, far devious from the path direct.

1812

Joseph Hume

IT chanc'd, in lifes mid stage, that, straying far,
A wood, wild and obscure, such horrors spread
Upon my errant steps ...

c. 1819

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

In the mid journey of our road of life
From beaten way I turned an erring foot
And found a darksome forest, blackening round!

1822

John Taaffe

Dante, come to the middle of human life, finds himself still tossed about a gloomy forest, desert, or valley, from which however he descries a sunny mountain...

1832

A Late Scholar of Trinity College

In the mid journey of my life I found
My footsteps wandering midst a forest's shade,
For the true path had vanished all around.

1833

Ichabod Charles Wright

IN the midway of this our life below,
I found myself within a gloomy wood,--
No traces left, the path direct to show.

1836

Odoardo Volpi (Edward N. Shannon)

Midway upon the journey of our life,
I found myself within a darksome wood ;
For the true way was lost, mid perils, rife.

c. 1840

Peter Hawke

*In the midsts of the voyage of life I wandered in an obscure
forest having lost the right road.*

c. 1840

John Abraham Heraud

*main-road
Midway the journey of our life; I found
Myself a wanderer in a gloomy Wood;
Lost the right path, . . . and wilderness around.*

1842

Charles Hindley

IN the Midway of this our mortal life I found myself
in a dark and gloomy forest, that from the direct
path was turned aside.

1843

John Dayman

MIDWAY the journey of our life along,
I found me in a gloomy woodland dell,
The right road all confounded with the wrong.

1843

Thomas William Parsons

Midway through our life's journey, in a wood
Obscure and wild I found myself astray.

Ah ! to describe how rough it was – how rude
That savage forest – chills me to this day.

c. 1845

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

All in the middle of the road of life
I stood bewildered in a dusky wood -
The path being lost that once showed straight and rife.

1846

Leigh Hunt

Dante says, that when he was half-way on his pilgrimage through this life, he one day found himself, towards nightfall, in a wood where he could no longer discern the right path.

1849

John Aitken Carlyle

In the middle of the journey of our life, I found myself in a dark wood ; for the straight way was lost.

1850

Patrick Bannerman

HALF through our mortal life, myself I found
In a dark forest's wild and rugged ground,
Where the right way was lost in shaggy wood,

1850

George Washington Greene

*In the midway of this our mortal life,
I found myself in a wood obscure
So darkly that the rightful way was lost.*

1851

Charles Bagot Cayley

UPON the journey of our life midway,
I found myself within a darksome wood,
As from the right path I had gone astray.

1852

Rev. Edmund O'Donnell

In the middle of the course if this our life, I found myself in a gloomy forest, for I had missed the right direction.

1854

Thomas Brooksbank

MIDWAY upon the journey of my days
I found myself within a wood so drear,
That the direct path nowhere met my gaze.

1854

Sir (William) Frederick Pollock

HALF-WAY upon the journey of our life,
I found myself within a gloomy wood,
By reason that the path direct was lost.

1857

James Chute Peabody

Along the journey of our life, midway,
I found myself within a dismal wood ;
For from the right path had I gone astray.

1857

James Chute Peabody

Midway (1) along the journey of our life
I found myself within a dismal wood ; (2)
For of the right way every trace was lost.

1859

Rev. John Wesley Thomas

IN my mid journey on life's road, I found
Myself within a wood obscure, astray ;
Of path direct no trace appear'd around.

1859

Bruce Whyte

When life's mid journey I had scarcely made,
I found me in a wood's obscure recess,
Whither in devious folly I had stray'd.

1862

Claudia Hamilton Ramsay

About the middle of life's onward way,
I found myself within a darksome dell,
Because from the true path I went astray.

1862

William Patrick Wilkie

WHEN midway on life's journey here,
I found me in a wood obscure,
for I had lost the path direct.

1865

James Ford

At the mid-stage of human life, estray'd
I found me in a wood obscure; the way
Guiding aright was lost ; and all was shade.

1865

William Michael Rossetti

IN midway of the journey of our life,
I found myself within a darkling wood,
Because the rightful pathway had been lost.

1866

William Patrick Wilkie

WHEN midway on the journey of our life,
I found myself within a darksome wood,
for I the path direct had lost from view.

1867

David Johnston

In our life's journey at its midway stage
I found myself within a wood obscure,
Where the right path which guided me was lost.

1867

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life
I found myself within a forest dark,
For the straightforward pathway had been lost.

1868

Sir John Francis William Herschel

TOWARD the middle of life's onward way
I came upon a forest dark and drear,
 Out of the path direct and far astray.

1869

Charlotte Yonge

In the mid pathway of our earthly travel
Encompassed by a wood obscure I found me,
Where I no road could find, no clue unravel.

1871

Maria Francesca Rossetti

TN A.D. 1300, the year of the Jubilee; at dawn on the 25th of March, the Feast of the Annunciation, then reckoned as New Year's Day, and happening that year to also be Maundy Thursday; Dante, then nearly thirty-five, and approaching the time of his election to the Priorato, perceived himself to have wandered while half asleep from the right path, and to be actually entangled in the mazes of a dark wood.

1874

Henry Bernard Cotterill

It is the night before Good Friday, March 25, A.D. 1300.
Dante loses his way in a dark wood, so tangled and dense...

1874

Ernest Ridsdale Ellaby

ON life's mid-way—ere half my days were o'er—
All in a darksome wood I roved astray,
Wherein the way of truth was seen no more.

1875

William Charteris

*When I was in my manhood's prime,
I spent a night, ah! dreary time!
I found myself upon a time
Within a gloomy wood,*

1877

Margaret Oliphant

The beginning is confused, and full of darkness and terror. He was so full of sleep at the time when he lost his way that he cannot tell how it happened...

1877

Charles Tomlinson

Upon the journey of our life midway,
I found myself in a dark forest, where
The beaten path direct had gone astray.

1881

Warburton Pike

UPON the journey of our life half way,
I found myself within a gloomy wood,
For I had missed the path and gone astray.

1884

James Romanes Sibbald

IN middle of the journey of our days
I found that I was in a darksome wood --
The right road lost and vanished in the maze.

1885

James Innes Minchin

UPON the journey of my life midway,
I found myself within a darkling wood,
Where from the straight path I had gone astray :

1886

Edward Hayes Plumptre

WHEN our life's course with me had halfway sped,
I found myself in gloomy forest dell,
Where the straight path beyond all search had fled.

1887

Frederick Kneeller Haselfoot Haselfoot

WITH half the pathway of our lifetime crossed
I found myself in a dark wood astray,
Because the right way was entirely lost.

1887

Rose Emily Selfe

Dante's dream begins by his finding himself alone in a dark wood, into which he had wandered in his sleep. Through this wood, wild and uncultivated, and bristling with thorns, he found it most difficult to force his way...

1888

John Augustine Wilstach

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life,
I found me in a forest dark and deep,
For I the path direct had failed to keep.

1891

Charles Eliot Norton

Midway upon the road of our life I found myself within a dark wood, for the right way had been missed.

1892

Arthur John Butler

HALFWAY upon the road of our life, I came to myself amid a dark wood where the straight path was confused.

1892

Elizabeth Harrison

Once upon a time, very long ago, there was a man whose name was Dante. He had done wrong and had wandered a long way from his home. He does not tell us how or why. He begins by saying that he had gone to sleep in a great forest. Suddenly he awoke, and tried to find his way out of it, first by one path and then another; but all in vain.

1892

Arthur Henry 'Art' Young

On either side there stretched a trackless forest, a screaming wilderness, a wild desolation. Overhead a ghostly night wind ploughed through the tree-tops and wailed and sobbed like a lost spirit. Amidst a whizzing of unseen bats and the hoots of melancholy owls, I arose, and, combing the gravel out of my auburn locks, set forth in a southeasterly direction.

1893

Emelia Russell Gurney

AT some crisis in life, probably after the illusions of early youth have vanished, the Pilgrim perceives he has lost his way. He knows he must have slept and wandered, but cannot tell whence he came, nor whither he goes. The savage, pathless forest in which he finds himself fills him with bitterness and dismay...

1893

George Musgrave

A MIDDLE of the Journey of our Life
I found me wandering in a DARK WOOD,
For the Right Way was lost.

1893

Thomas William Parsons

HALFWAY on our life's journey, in a wood,
From the right path I found myself astray.

Ah, to describe how rough it was, how rude
That savage forest, chills me to this day !

1893

Sir Edward Sullivan

MIDWAY on the journey of our life I found myself within a darksome wood, for the right way was lost.

1894

William Warren Vernon

Dante opens the Poem by telling his readers that, at the time of his supposed vision, he had reached halfway through the number of years usually allotted to the life of man, and that his life was dark and shadowed, because he was not walking in the straight way or the path of virtue.

1894

William Warren Vernon

In the middle of the pathway of our life (i.e. when I was 35 years old), I awoke to the consciousness that I was in a dark forest (i.e. walking in the paths of sin) for that the straight way was lost.

1895

Robert Urquhart

IN the middle of the journey of our life
Far thro' a gloomy wood I went astray
Where the right way was lost, and danger rife.

1896

Caroline Potter

I WAS a Pilgrim that had turned, astray
Within a trackless wood;
And in the middle of Life's journeying way
In shrouded darkness stood.

1898

Norley Chester (Emily Underdown)

The first thing that Dante tells us about in his great poem, is how he had lost his way in a wood, so terribly dark and so full of tangled branches that even the thought of it filled him with awe.

1898

Eugene Jacob Lee-Hamilton

MIDWAY upon the footpath of our lifetime
I found myself within a dusky forest,
For the straightforward way had been lost sight of.

1899

Epiphanius Wilson

Dante in his poem finds himself in the middle of life's path, *i.e.*, when he is just thirty-five years old, in a dark and tangled wood. Terror and anxiety oppress him, and he can find no way to reach the mountain heights...

c. 18??

Anonymous

*About the middle period of our lives
I found myself enveloped in an obscure wood
In which the right way was astray from me.*

c. 1900

Anonymous

*Upon my pilgrimage of life, midway
I wandered in a wilderness [...]
Wherein my heedless steps had gone astray*

1900

Susan Cunnington

Led by Virgil through the recesses of the dark wood in
which he found himself astray,

1900

Edmund Garratt Gardner

At the break of day on good Friday, Dante, in his thirty-fifth year, after a night of agonized wanderings, would fain issue from the dark wood into which he has, as it were in slumbered, strayed.

c. 1900

Arthur Newton Peaslee

Halfway along the pathway of our life
I found myself astray in a dim wood,
For the straight way was lost.

1901

Richard James Cross

Midway upon life's journey I found myself in a dark wood,
for the right way had been lost.

1901

John Carpenter Garnier

IN the middle course of life, I found myself in a dark wood, in which the direct way was lost.

1901

Edward Henry Pember

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life,
I did recall myself, to find my path
Lost in the tangles of a darksome wood.

1901

Arthur Henry 'Art' Young

On either hand there stretches a boundless forest of the wildest desolation. Overhead a ghostly night wind ploughs through the tree tops and wails and sobs like a lost spirit. Amidst a whizzing of invisible bats and the hoots of melancholy owls, he struggles to his feet. Combing the gravel out of his long locks he sets forth in a southeasterly direction.

1902

Edward Clarke Lowe

Now half way through the journey of our life,
In a dark wood I to myself came back ;
For lost I the path of uprightness.

1903

John Smyth Carroll

On the morning, then, of this Good Friday in the very centre of his life, Dante tells us that, after a night of desperate fear, he came to himself in a dark and savage wood, where the way was lost.

1903

George Arthur Greene

HALF-WAY through the journey of our life, Dante loses his way
in a dark forest,

1903

George Arthur Greene

THE forest-depths grow dark and dim around:
The Valley of Shadows lies beneath my feet,
And neither can my failing steps retreat,
Nor may I wend my way to higher ground;

1903

Sir Samuel Walker Griffith

MIDWAY upon the road of our life's journey
I found myself within a dark wood fairing ;
For the straight way was lost by misadventure.

1903***Rev. Henry Fotheringham Henderson***

AT the age of thirty-five or thereby, our poet found himself astray, among the mazes of a gloomy thicket. For a brief moment he enjoyed a glimmer of hope. He escaped from the wood and stood on a sunless plain. Before him rose a high mountain.

1903

Edward Wilberforce

MIDWAY the journey of our life when sped
I found me in a gloomy wood astray,
For the lost pathway that directly led.

1904

Aldolphus Thomas Ennis

The poem opens with Dante wandering in a wood dark and wild, unable to account how he came thither on the previous night supposed to be that of Holy Thursday.

1904

Henry Fanshawe Tozer

MIDWAY in the course of our life I found myself within a dark wood, where the right way was lost.

1904

Marvin Richardson Vincent

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life,
I found myself within a forest dark,
For the right road was lost.

1904

(Marion) Alice Wyld

In the mid-time then of his life, Dante came to himself
in a dark and dreary wood, where the straight way was lost.

1907

Marie-Louise Egerton Castle

Dante lost his way in the forest of Sin,

1909

Charles Hall Grandgent

It is the night of April 7th, the night before Good Friday in the great jubilee year, 1300. Dante, at the age of thirty-five, suddenly becomes aware that he is astray in the dark wood of worldliness.

1909***Mary Macgregor***

In his poem, then, Dante tells us that as he dreamed he found himself in a dark and fear-some wood. How he had got there he did not know, he knew only that he had lost his way.

No pathway could he find leading through the tangled thicket, no light could he see shining through the dense covering of the leaves. The straight way, if such there were, was lost.

1911

***Francesco Bertolini, Adolfo Padovan,
& Giuseppe de Liguoro***

*D*ante imagines himself lost in a dark and gloomy wood.

1911

Sir Samuel Walker Griffith

Midway upon the Road of our Life's journey
I found myself with a dark wood about me,
For the straight was lost by a mistaking :

1911

Charles Edwin Wheeler

Midway along the highroad of our days,
I found myself within a shadowy wood,
Where the straight path was lost in tangled ways

1912

Sidney Gunn

When at the middle point upon life's way
I found myself within a forest drear,
For I was from the rightful path astray.

1913

Gauntlett Chaplin

In the mid-journey of our mortal life,
I wandered far into a darksome wood,
Where the true road no longer might be seen.

1913

Frédéric Ozanam

‘In the midway of this our mortal life,’ in a dark and lonely forest, wherein through the intoxication of the senses he had gone astray...

1914

John Pyne

Midway the pilgrimage of life completing,
Come to myself, I saw a wood obscuring,
Which rendered vague, advancing or retreating.

1914

Edith Mary Shaw

In the midtime of life I found myself
Within a dusky wood; My way was lost.

1915

Edward Joshua Edwardes

Midway upon the pathway of life
I found myself within a darksome wood
wherein the proper road was lost to view.

1915

Henry Johnson

HALF-WAY upon the journey of our life
I roused to find myself within a forest
In darkness, for the straight way had been lost.

1916

Alfred Mansfield Brooks

When half my days were spent I found myself in a dark wood, and off the right path.

1918

Courtney Langdon

When halfway through the journey of our life,
I found that I was in a gloomy wood
because the path which led aright was lost.

1919

Eleanor Prescott Hammond

Upon the journey of our life midway
I roused and found me in a gloomy wood,
Where all bewildered was the forthright way.

1920

Eleanor Vinton Murray

UPON the journey of our life, midway,
Within a forest dark I found again
Myself, for I had missed the one straight way.

1920

Henry Dwight Sedgwick

Dante begins by saying that in the middle-road of human life he became aware that he was in a wild, dark wood, and had lost his way :

1921

Melville Best Anderson

When half the journey of our life was done
I found me in a darkling wood astray,
Because aside from the straight pathway run.

1922

Henry John Hooper

When I had the half of Life's Journey completed,
I found myself straying within a dark Forest,
The path being lost in bewildering mazes.

1923

Robert Ethol Welsh

Deep in slumber, 'sleep-opprest,' and wandering astray, he
has lost his way in a gloomy wood...

1927

David James MacKenzie

In life's mid journey, as I went my way,
I found myself within a gloomy wood.
I could not see the path, nor where it lay.

1928

Albert Rosolino Bandini

Upon the middle of our mortal way
I found myself within a forest black
As from the rightful path I went astray.

1928

Sydney Fowler Wright

ONE night, when half my life behind me lady,
I wandered from the straight lost path afar.
Through the great dark was no releasing way...

1931

Jefferson Butler Fletcher

Upon the journey of our life midway
I came unto myself in a dark wood,
For from the straight path I had gone astray.

1931

Lacy Lockert

In the mid-journey of our life astray
I found myself within a dark wood, where
The right way had been lost.

1932

Melville Best Anderson

Midway the path of life that men pursue
I found me in a darkling wood astray,
For the direct way had been lost to view.

1932

Henry Bellamann

*In midway of
halfway along
In Midway in the journey of our life
I found myself within a shadowed wood
Because the direct pathway had been lost.*

1933

Laurence Binyon

MIDWAY the journey of this life I was 'ware
That I had strayed into a dark forest,
And the right path appeared not anywhere.

1933

George Musgrave & Edward A Parker

HALF over the wayfaring of our life,
Since missed the right way, through a night-dark wood
Struggling, I found myself.

1934

Louis How

Halfway along the path of this existence
I found that I was in a gloomy wood,
My right way being blotted by the distance.

1936

Elizabeth Home Bigg-Wither

THE Florentine poet Dante had reached the age of five-and-thirty years, when he found himself utterly lost in a dark wood.

1938

Ralph Thomas Bodey

MIDWAY upon the course of this our life
I found myself within a gloom-dark wood,
For I had wandered from the path direct.

1939

John Dickson Sinclair

In the middle of the journey of our life I came to myself
within a dark wood where the straight way was lost.

1948

Thomas Goddard Bergin

Midway along the journey of our life
I strayed, abandoning the rightful path,
and found myself within a gloomy wood.

1948

Patrick Cummins

My path of life had midmost climbed position,
when in a gloomy wood I found me straying,
where roadway straight had ended in perdition.

1948

Lawrence Grant White

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life,
I found that I was in a dusky wood;
For the right, path whence I had strayed, was lost

1949

Harry Morgan Ayres

Halfway along the road of this life of ours I came to myself in a dark wood where the right path was lost.

1949

Dorothy Leigh Sayers

Midway this way of life we're bound upon,
I woke to find myself in a dark wood,
Where the right road was wholly lost and gone.

1949

John Humphreys Whitfield

IN the middle of the passage of our life I found myself in a dark wood, for the straight path was lost.

1954

John Ciardi

Midway in our life's journey, I went astray
from the straight road and woke to find myself
alone in a dark wood.

1954

Howard Russell Huse

In the middle of the journey of our life I came to my senses
in a dark forest, for I had lost the straight path,

1955

Geoffrey Langdale Bickersteth

AT midpoint of the road we mortals tread
I came to myself in a dark wood, for there
the way was lost that leads us straight ahead.

1956

Glen Levin Swiggett

Midway upon life's journey tardily
I realized that I had lost my way
Within a dark wood and no more could see
The proper path.

1958

Mary Prentice Lillie

Halfway along the journey of our lifetime
I found myself deep in a gloomy forest,
For the direct way had become confused.

1961

Warwick Fielding Chipman

Midway along the span of our life's road
I woke to a dark wood unfathomable
Where not a vestige of the right way shewed.

1962

Clara Stillman Reed

Midway in the course of this our human life I found
myself in a dark wood, for I had lost the straight road.

1965

Geoffrey Langdale Bickersteth

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life
I woke to find me astray in a dark wood,
confused by ways with the straight way at strife.

1965

William Francis Ennis

Then in the midway of our life within its round
I found myself within a gloomy wood, nought clear,
The direct way obliterated from all ground.

1965

Aldo Maugeri

In the midsts of the journey of our life
I found myself within a darksome wood
for I had lost the only way that's straight.

1965

Joseph Tusiani

How would you feel if, awakening in the deep of night, you found yourself no more in your room but in a thick, dark forest called the Wilderness of Death? You would wonder how you got there, and would only remember that it was still daylight, and you were walking home on a comfortable road you knew quite well when suddenly you began to feel sleepy, very sleepy, until you could hardly see the road before you and hardly remember that you had a home to go to.

1966

Louis Biancolli

HALFWAY ALONG THE JOURNEY of our life,
Having strayed from the right path and lost it,
I awoke to find myself in a dark wood.

1966

Ronald Bottrall

Midway in human life's allotted span
I found myself in a dark wood,
Where the straight path I sought in vain.

1969

Thomas Goddard Bergin

Midway along the journey of our life
I found myself within a gloomy wood
For the right pathway had been lost to view.

1969

Allan Gilbert

In the midst of my journey through this life of ours, I was in a dark forest, because I had lost the right road.

1970

Charles Southward Singleton

MIDWAY in the journey of our life I found myself in a dark wood, for the straight way was lost.

1971

Mark Musa

Midway along the journey of our life
I woke to find myself in a dark wood,
for I had wandered off from the straight path.

1976

Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle

I THOUGHT ABOUT BEING DEAD.

I could remember every silly detail of that silly last performance. I was dead at the end of it. But how could I think about being dead if I had died?

1979

Kenneth Mackenzie

Midway upon the journey of our life
I found that I had strayed into a wood
So dark the right road was completely lost.

c. 1980

Willis Barnstone

Midway along our road of life I found
myself awake in a secret dark wood,
where the strange path was lost in that strange ground.

1980

Willis Barnstone

Midway along our road of life I awoke
to find myself in a secret dark wood,
for I had lost the narrow path.

1980

Allen Mandelbaum

When I had journeyed half of our life's way,
I found myself within a shadowed forest,
for I have lost the path that does not stray.

1980

Charles Hubert Sisson

Half way along the road we have to go,
I found myself obscured in a great forest,
Bewildered, and I knew I had lost the way.

1981

Geoffrey Langdale Bickersteth

AT midpoint of the journey of our life
I woke to find me astray in a dark wood,
perplexed by paths with the straight way at strife.

1983

Tom Phillips

Just halfway through this journey of our life
I reawoke to find myself inside
a dark wood, way off course, the right road lost.

1985

Patrick Boyde

In the middle of our life's journey I came to myself in a dark wood, for the straight road was lost.

1985

Nicholas Kilmer

Halfway on the path our life is
I found I was in a dark woods;
for I had lost my direction.

1985

Peter Whigham

Life's path half past,
I came to in a dark forest,
the road ahead - lost.

1986

Derrick Plant

It was just before dawn on Good Friday in the year 1300. I was thirty-five years of age and so had already come half-way along the path of our life on earth. Now, to my horror, I suddenly realized that I had somehow got lost in a wilderness of dark and forbidding trees.

I had no idea how I had wandered into the wood, away from the right path...

1987

James Finn Cotter

Halfway through the journey we are living
I found myself deep in a darkened forest,
For I had lost all trace of the straight path.

1987

Macha Louis Rosenthal

At the midpoint of the journey's life
I found myself lost in a dark forest
with no straight path I could see anywhere.

1989

Patrick Creagh & Robert Hollander

At the midpoint in the journey of our life
I found myself astray in a dark wood
For the straight path had vanished.

1989

Robert Sikoryak

HELP! I'M LOST IN THIS DARK WOOD!
DON'T WORRY JOE! I'LL LEAD YOU TO **SAFETY**!
GREAT! WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO HELL!

1989

Valeria Tinkler-Villani

In the middle of the journey of our life
I found myself within a dark wood,
For the straight way was lost.

1991

Tibor Wlassics

Halfway across our life's allotted span,
in the middle of a dark wood I woke:
the path was lost that leads straight every man.

1992

Ken Cockburn

Midway along the path of our life, I found myself in a dark wood where the straight path was tangled.

1992

Erik Jackson

Halfway through the journey of life
I found myself in a wooded dark.
From the right path,

1993

Seamus Heaney

In the middle of the journey of our life
I found myself astray in a dark wood
where the straight road had been lost sight of.

1994

Stephen Wentworth Arndt

On traveling one half of our life's way,
I found myself in darkened forests when
I lost the straight and narrow path to stray.

1994

Steve Ellis

Halfway through our trek in life
I found myself in this dark wood,
miles away from the right road.

1994

Robert Pinsky

Midway on our life's journey, I found myself
In dark woods, the right road lost.

1996

Peter Dale

Along the journey of our life half way,
I found myself again in the dark wood
wherein the straight road no longer lay.

1996

Robert Marlowe Durling

In the middle of the journey of our life, I came to myself in
a dark wood, for the straight way was lost.

1996

Benedict Flynn

Midway upon the course of this our life,
I found myself within a gloomy wood,
for I have wandered from the path direct.

1997

Kathryn Lindskoog

Midway on life's journey, I woke up and found myself in a dark wood, for I had lost the path.

1997

Loreena McKennitt

When the dark wood fell before me
And all the paths were overgrown

1998

Joan Taber Altieri

In the middle of our life's walk
I found myself in a dark wood
For the straight road was lost.

1998

Elio Zappulla

Halfway along this journey of our life,
I woke in wonder in a sunless wood,
For I had wandered from the narrow way.

2000

Anthony Stephen Kline

In *the middle* of the journey of our life, I came to myself in a dark wood, where the direct way was lost.

2000

Robert & Jean Hollander

Midway in the journey of our life
I came to myself in a dark wood,
for the straight way was lost.

2000

Derek Philcox

The narrator states that he found himself (*again?* mi ritrovai) in a dark wood, so rough and wild that the mere thought of it renews the fear he felt then:

Midway along the passage of my life
I found myself inside a gloomy wood,
and nowhere was the path through it in sight.
(*or, as I prefer:* I found myself again inside a wood)...

2000

Armand Schwerner

In the middle of the journey
of our life
I came to myself
in a dark forest
the straightforward way
misplaced.

2000

Gilda Sbrilli

The poet gives a first-person account of an exceptional experience he underwent when he was “half way along the road of life”, that is to say 35 years of age, considering the average life span in those days. Having lost his way, he found himself in the midst of a dark forest that was so desolate and impenetrable that simply thinking back on that experience, renews his fear.

2002

Ciaran Carson

Halfway through the story of my life
I came to in a gloomy wood, because
I'd wandered off the path, away from the light.

2002

Anthony Michael Esolen

Midway upon the journey of our life
I found myself in a dark wilderness,
for I had wandered from the straight and true.

2002

Bianca Froese-Acquaye

On a Good Friday at my glorious age of thirty-five
I got lost in a dark room.
I was wondering how I'd managed to stray from the straight path.

2002

Michael Palma

Midway through the journey of our life, I found
myself in a dark wood, for I had strayed
from the straight pathway to this tangled ground.

2003

Seth Zimmerman

In the middle of our life's way
I found myself in a wood so dark
That I couldn't tell where the straight path lay.

2004

Marcus Sanders & Sandow Birk

About halfway through the course of my pathetic life, I woke up and found myself in a stupor in some dark place, I'm not sure how I ended up there; I guess I had taken a few wrong turns.

2005

John Gordon Nichols

Halfway along our journey to life's end
I found myself astray in a dark wood,
Since the right way was nowhere to be found.

2005

(Gary) Leon Stephens

Halfway along the road of our life
I came to my senses in a dark forest
Which had the unerring way overgrown

2006

Robin Kirkpatrick

At one point midway on our path in life,
I came around and found myself now searching
through a dark wood, the right way blurred and lost.

2006

Andreas Kissner

I've lost my way
In a dark wood of error
In a crisis, inside deep terror

2006

Sean O'Brien

Once, halfway through the journey of our life,
I found myself inside a shadowy wood,
because the proper road had disappeared.

2007

Cinzia Bigazzi

I was about 35 when, with no idea how, I got lost in a dark forest. Dear me! If I think back to that forest it still fills me with fear! Terrified I moved forward, trying to find a way out...

2007

Frank Salvidio

In the middle of the journey of our life,
I came to myself again in a dark
wood, where the right way was lost.

2007

Tom Simone

In the middle of the journey of our life
I found myself in a dark wood,
where the straight path was lost.

2008

John Agard

In the middle of my childhood wonder
I woke to find myself in a forest
that was – how shall I put it – wild and sombre.

2008

Sam Carbaugh

I WOKE UP THIS MORNING
IN A DARK CREEPY FOREST.
Aaiieeeee!

2008

Sam Carbaugh

I WOKE UP TODAY
AND FOUND
MYSELF LOST
IN A DARK, SPOOKY
FOREST.
THE SCROLL I HAVE
IS EMPTY BEFORE
TODAY...
WANDERED AROUND
FOR HOURS!
I'M 35! WHY AM I STILL
FREAKED OUT BY
NATURE?

2008

Elisabeth Tonnard

In the middle of the journey of our life
I found myself lost in dark woods,
Trying to seize the light

2009

Alexander Aciman & Emmett Rensin

I'm having a midlife crisis. Lost in the woods. Should have brought my iPhone.

2009

David Bruce

Just before Good Friday, April 8, 1300, Dante woke up to find himself in a dark wood. How he got there he did not know because he had wandered from the correct path little by little, not realising for a long time that he had wandered from the straight path and was instead on the path of error. But midway in the threescore and ten years allotted to human beings in the Bible, the 35-year old Dante had finally awoken to find out he was not on the path he wanted to be on. Instead he was in a dark wood in a dark valley, far from the light he wanted to see.

2009

Stanley Lombardo

Midway through the journey of our life
I found myself within a dark wood,
for the straight way had now been lost.

2009

Kim Paffenroth

Dante was not lost in a dark forest. Far off to his left, league upon league of trees stretched out sullenly, until in the distance they crept up the sides of angular, defiant mountains.

2010

Boris Acosta

In the middle road of our life
I RE-found myself in a dark wood
that the right way was lost...

2010

Anthony Cristiano

In the middle of the course of my life
I found myself within a dark forest,
For the straight path was lost.

2010

Seymour Chwast

IN THE MIDDLE OF MY
LIFE I AWAKE TO FIND
MYSELF ALONE IN A
DARK VALLEY.

2010

Klaus-Jens Gerken

Near the pinnacle of life
was girdled by a dismal wood--
went from right way, and I lost it.

2010

John Lambert

Midway along the path of our life
I came to myself in a dark wood,
because the direct way was lost.

2010

Burton Raffel

Halfway along the road of this our life
I woke to find myself in a wood so dark
That the straight and honest ways were gone, and light
Was lost.

2010

Gary Reed

I'M LOST.

BUT HOW DID I GET HERE?

WHEREVER HERE IS.

MAYBE I CAN SEE SOMETHING IF I GET UP THERE.

NOW, WHICH WAY?

OH MY GOD!?!?

2010

Seth Steinzor

Midway through my life's journey, I found myself
lost in a dark place, a tangle of hanging
vines or cables or branches – so dark!

2011

Paul S Bruckman

On our life's path, when midpoint had been crossed,
I found myself inside a forest drear,
For the direct way had indeed been lost.

2011

Robert Mitchell Torrance

Halfway through the journey of our life's way
I found myself in a dark wood, and here
was lost, uncertain where the straight path lay.

2012

Mary Jo Bang

Stopped mid-motion in the middle
Of what we call our life, I looked up and saw no sky—
Only a dense cage of leaf, tree, and twig. I was lost.

2012

Kevin Jackson & Hunt Emerson

MAYBE I DROPPED OFF
TO SLEEP OR SOMETHING...
I'M NOT TOO SURE...
...BUT I WOKE IN A DARK
AND GLOOMY WOOD, WITH
MY MIND OPPRESSED AND
HEAVY!
A GHASTLY AND HORRIBLE
TRUTH DAWNED ON ME...
IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY!
I WAS 35!

2012

Maila Joy Pring Fuentes

(SE: Nature) At the midpoint of the journey of life, I found myself in a dark forest, for the clear path was lost

2012

Joseph Lanzara

THE ARROGANCE OF MY
YOUTH IS PAST– MIDDLE-AGE
HAS CREPT UPON ME.
I FEEL AS IF I AM LOST IN THE WILDERNESS.
NIGHTMARES PLAGUE ME–
TERRIBLE DREAMS OF SUCH STARKNESS
THAT THEY BECOME MORE THAN DREAMS.
THESE VISIONS ARE SENT, IT SEEMS, TO WARN
OF THE TERRORS THAT AWAIT THOSE OF US
WHO FAIL TO HONOR THE BLESSING OF OUR
OWN EXISTENCE.

I DREAM I WANDER
INTO A DARK FOREST...

2012

Tim Love

Nel mezzo ... *in the middle*
del cammin ... *of the path (commonly used figuratively)*
di nostra vita ... *of our life*
mi ritrovai ... *I found myself*
per una selva oscura ... *in a dark wood*
ché la diritta via ... *for the direct/straight way*
era smarrita. ... *was lost*

2012

Hugo The Poet

Midway through our life's journey I came to
In the midst of a dark, and dangerous wood,
The way through, the straight path, the way to choose
Having been lost, misplaced and erased from view.

2012

Chrissy Williams

At one point, midway on our path in life
When I had journeyed half of our life's way
Half way along the road we have to go
I came to in a gloomy wood

2012

Patrick Worsnip

The journey of our life being half-way through,
I found myself inside a sombre wood,
the path that leads directly lost to view.

2013

Ron Bassilian

HOW DID I GET THERE?

I MEAN, THERE?

I WAS 35 YEARS OLD. I WAS IN THE PRIME OF MY YEARS.
I SHOULD HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO SHOW FOR MYSELF.
RIGHT?

AND YET. THERE I WAS. AGAIN.

WANDERING, LOST IN THE STREETS OF WESTWOOD,
COMPLETELY AIMLESS.

I STILL SHUDDER THINKING ABOUT THOSE DAYS.

2013

Andre Rene Hopper

Upon concrete walkways, littered with styrofoam trash,
I rose my head, unsure of where it fell last night.
On a white scar in the park, my body chose to crash.

2013

Ethan Christopher Jahns

Halfway through the journey of our life, I awoke in a dark forest, for I had departed from the straight path.

2013

Clive James

At the mid-point of the path through life, I found
Myself lost in a wood so dark, the way
Ahead was blotted out.

2013

Vincent Di Stefano

When midway along our life's long journey
I found myself in a glooming forest
Lost, alone, no clear path before me.

2014

Stephen Wentworth Arndt

About the midpoint of our lifelong way
I found myself in wooded darkness when
I lost the straight and narrow path to stray.

2014

Joshua Simon Harris

In the middle of the journey of our life
I found myself again in a dark forest,
for I had lost the pathway straight and right.

2014

Douglas Neff

Midway through the journey of my life
I found myself lost in a dark forest,
Having wandered off the main path.

2014

Pier Paolo Pasolini

Around my forties I realized I was in a very dark moment in my life. No matter what I did in the 'Forest' of reality of 1963 (the year I had reached, absurdly unaware of that exclusion from the life of others that is the repetition of one's own), there was a sense of darkness.

2014

PT Ryan

The morning was cold and lonely and my life's journey had reached the point where there was none for I am currently mired in a great sadness and it is in me.

2014

Philip Terry

Halfway through a bad trip
I found myself in this stinking car park,
Underground, miles from Amarillo.

2014

Zane Wallace

In the middle of the road of life I found myself in a shadowy wood, for the straight and narrow path had been lost. Somehow, I had suffered the spiritual death of losing one's way. I was driving a cab in L.A.

2014

Stephen Wyatt

In the middle of the path through life we all must take
I found myself in a dark wood
Where the way ahead was no longer clear.

2015

Declan Moran

When I was thirty six years old
I found myself in mountain cold;
For I was lost, from the path I'd strayed
In forest dark with shadows frayed.

2016

Guido Martina

In the middle of my life, I lost my way
And found myself in woods, dark and old
Far off and hidden from the light of day.

2016

Tim Smith

In the middle of the path of our life
I found myself through a dark wood,
for the straight way was lost.

2016

Peter Thornton

When I had reached the middle of our life's
journey, I came to myself in a dark wood
with the straight path gone missing.

2017

Ned Denny

In the midst of the stroll of this life that some call good

I came to my senses in a corpse-hued wood,
having strayed from or abandoned the righteous way.
Christ, that wood!

2017

Angelaurelio Soldi

Half way into our life journey
I found myself in a dark wood
For I had lost sight of the right way.

2017

John Whitebred & Redd Whyne

Midway through my Friday shift I found myself in a darksome dream. It was a horrible dream really, though in the end it helped me find my way.

2018

Jason Michael Baxter

Midway in the journey of our life
I found myself in the midst of a dark wood—
the true way was lost.

2018

Christopher Brown

And life becomes a disoriented walkabout, in a forest, staring at the undergrowth, thinking about what they miss instead of looking to the tree tops for clues about how to escape.

2018

Alasdair Gray

In middle age I wholly lost my way,
finding myself within an evil wood
far from the right straight road we all should tread,

2018

Daniel Zimmerman

Dante was travelling. He was walking the path of life. He had already reached the halfway point and was about to embark on the final leg of his journey.

Suddenly, he got lost. He inadvertently strayed from the path and wandered aimlessly in a forest that was as dark as sin.

2019

BabelFish

In the midst of the walk of our Lives
I found myself in a dark forest,
Because the straight path was lost.

2019

Howard Oakley

It is just before dawn on Good Friday in 1300, and Dante is in mid-life. He is wandering, lost in a dark wood.

2019

Google Translate

In the middle of the journey of our life
I found myself in a dark forest,
for the right way was lost.

2020

Sophie Grace Chappell

At the mid-point of our mortality's passing
I found myself within a nightshade wood,
my straight and onward way from there gone missing.

2020

Richard Fox

mid way through the wood
the brain mush-room
edible poison
bewitching
cursed

2020

Samuel Johnson

When in the midst of our life's way I'd crossed,
I found myself inside a forest drear,
Because the direct path was long since lost.

2020

Kurt Jones

Now I find myself halfway through life's path.
Lost in darkness hounded by the savage three.
Ruining myself trying to find the right way.

2020

Chris McCabe

Halfway through the [...]
I developed amnesia [...]
For the [...] had been lost.

2020

Steve McCaffrey

I knew that life's quite a fiddle
when on my own I'd entered its middle
I was in this dark wood
with truth misunderstood
and the owl's hooting diddle hi diddle

2020

Mark Scarbrough

Here's how it starts: a dark wood, a man alone, and a mid-life crisis—except not his, but ours.

2020

Mark Scarbrough

In the middle of the journey of our life, I found myself in a dark wood ; for the straight way was lost.

2020

Barrie Tullett & Russell Spera

When the Midpoint of my morning was crossed,
Tangled among curriculum as writ,
I found that the timetabled way was lost.

2021

Dr. Dennis Business

Our main character - from what I can gather - was out and about, doing what he did, staying on the true way... and something happened, and, and he lost the true way, and he woke up in a deep dark forest.

And that, is where we will begin.

2021

Federico Corradini

Half-way through the journey of our life
I found myself in a dark forest,
For the path which led aright was lost.

2021

Gerald J. Davis

Midway through our life's journey, I found myself in a dark woods, for I had gone astray from the correct path.

2021

Alexander Selenitsch

m i d -
l i f e

d a r k
w o o d

p a t h
l o s t

2021

Russell Spera

Reaching the midpoint of our life's journey,
I found myself in a wood, dark and tall,
The straightway path no longer could I see.

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Chronological List

*This chronological list includes all the translators (or paraphrasers) contained within this book. I added to this any translator who translated at least one full canto of any part of *The Divine Comedy*. These added authors are followed by an asterisk (*). Partial translations of single cantos date back to *Geoffery Chaucer*, have continued to appear over the centuries, and are too numerous to include here. The only exceptions to this are those represented within this book and they are identified in the Notes section.*

Titles in parentheses indicate that the book was not intended as a translation, but as commentary, and only a portion of those found are included below. This was because I felt their 'paraphrase' resonated with the guidelines established at the beginning of this project (see: p. xii). If the author's name is in parentheses it is for one of two reasons. Either the published name was a pseudonym, and in that case, the author's real name would follow in parentheses, or the author published using their middle name, and in that case, the missing first name, in parentheses, will be placed at the front.

Further, if a translator originally published all three cantiche separately, each is listed separately. I also list, though originally published separately, when their complete translation was first published together as a whole, be it together in a single volume, or as multiple volumes.

Finally, many translators revised their translations and republished them in later years. The translations that had significant changes through revision are included as separate entries. Those with no, or slight, changes were not included (see: xiv-xv).

Date	Book(s)	Translator
1591	<i>Inferno</i>	John Harington

Lines 1-3, Canto 1 in *Orlando Furioso in English Heroical Verse*.
Reprinted in 1634.

1760 *The Divine Comedy* **William Huggins***
 Unpublished. Documented to exist but lost. Only the bookplate exists.

1761 *Inferno* **Charles Burney***
 Unpublished. Documented to exist but lost.

1782 *Inferno* **William Hayley**
 Cantos 1-3 in *Essay on Epic Poetry*.
Inferno **Charles Rogers**
 First translation of the *Inferno* into English.

1785 *Inferno* **Henry Boyd**
 Published the first complete English translation of *The Divine Comedy* in 1802.

Inferno **William Parsons**
 Unpublished manuscript. Lines 1-33, Canto 1.

1798 *Inferno* **Henry Constantine Jennings***
 Canto 5, and portions of Cantos 32 and 33 in *Summary and Free Reflections, in Which the Great Outline Only, and Principal Features, of the Following Subjects Are Impartially Traced, and Candidly Examined* (1798 edition).

1802 *The Divine Comedy* **Henry Boyd**
 First translation of *The Divine Comedy* into English. Translated the *Inferno* in 1785.

1804 *Inferno* **Robert Watson Wade**
 Unpublished manuscript. Nearly a complete version.

Inferno **Richard Wharton***
 Canto 3 and a blended version of Cantos 32-33 in *Fables*.

1805 *Inferno* **Henry Francis Cary**
 Volume I of the *Inferno*. Cantos 1-17. Volume II was published in 1806.
 Cary published *The Divine Comedy* in 1814.

1806 *Inferno* **Henry Francis Cary**
 Volume II of the *Inferno*. Cantos 18-34. Volume I was published in 1805. Cary published *The Divine Comedy* in 1814.

1807 *Inferno* **Nathaniel Howard**

1812 *Inferno* **Joseph Hume**

1814 *The Divine Comedy* **Henry Francis Cary**

Published the *Inferno* in 2 volumes, 1805-06. He did not previously publish *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso* as separate volumes.

1819 *Inferno* **Elizabeth Barrett Browning**
 Lines 1-27 of Canto 1 in *Hitherto Unpublished Poems and Stories: with an Inedited Autobiography*, Vol. 1 (1914). Year approximate.

1822 *(Inferno)* **John Taaffe**
 Cantos 1-8 in *A Comment on the Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri*. Paraphrased with commentary. Taaffe states in the preface of his book that 'about 6 years since' (around 1816) he translated the first five Cantos of the *Inferno* in terza rima, and that 'two Cantos were printed.' They are, as of yet, unlocated.

1832 *Inferno* **Anonymous**
 Canto 1 in *An Attempt at an English Translation, in terza rima, of the First Canto of Dante's Inferno*. Author listed as 'a late scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge.'

1833 *Inferno* **Ichabod Charles Wright**
 Wright – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

1836 *Inferno* **Odoardo Volpi (Edward N. Shannon)**
 Cantos 1-10 in *Dante's Hell*.
Purgatorio **Ichabod Charles Wright**
 Wright – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1838 *Inferno* **John Herman Merivale***
 Cantos 3, 10, and 13 in *Poems Original and Translated*.

1840 *Inferno* **Peter Hawke**
 Unpublished manuscript. Cantos 1-17. Year approximate.
Inferno **John Abraham Heraud**
 Unpublished manuscript. Year approximate.
Paradiso **Ichabod Charles Wright**
 Wright – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1842 *Inferno* **Charles Hindley**
 Cantos 1-4 in *In a Plain and Direct Translation of the Inferno*.
Inferno **Thomas William Parsons**
 Cantos 1-10 of the *Inferno*. In 1865 he published Cantos 1-17 and the complete *Inferno* in 1867. Cantos 1-8 of the *Purgatorio* were published in 1875 (1876 in Britain) under the title *The Ante-Purgatorio*. In 1893

a complete collection of Parson's works were published. It included the *Inferno*, most of *Purgatorio*, and a few excerpts from *Paradiso*.

1843 *Inferno* **John Dayman**
 Published *The Divine Comedy* in 1865.

1845 *Inferno* **Elizabeth Barrett Browning**
 Canto 1 in *Hitherto Unpublished Poems and Stories: with an Inedited Autobiography*, Vol. 2. Year approximate.
The Divine Comedy **Ichabod Charles Wright**
 Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1833), *Purgatorio* (1836), and *Paradiso* (1840). In three volumes.

1846 *The Divine Comedy* **Leigh Hunt**
Stories from the Italian Poets. Vol. 1. The section titled *The Italian Pilgrim's Progress* (pp. 83-279) is a truncated prose translation of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Thomas Wade***
 Unpublished. Documented to exist but lost. Parts have been published. In *The London Quarterly Review*, April 1877, *Inferno*, Canto 3, lines 1-42, and Canto 34, lines 127-139. In *Literary Anecdotes of the Nineteenth Century*, Vol. 1, 1895, *Inferno*, Canto 34, lines 127-139.

1849 *Inferno* **John Aitken Carlyle**
 First literal prose translation.

1850 *The Divine Comedy* **Patrick Bannerman**

1851 *Inferno* **Charles Bagot Cayley**
 Cayley – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

1852 *The Divine Comedy* **Edmund O'Donnell**

1853 *Purgatorio* **Charles Bagot Cayley**
 Cayley – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1854 *Inferno* **Thomas Brooksbank**
Paradiso **Charles Bagot Cayley**
 Cayley – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. Cayley published a Part IV in 1855 as *Dante's Divine Comedy: Notes on the Translation*.

The Divine Comedy **Sir (William) Frederick Pollock**

1857 *Inferno* **James Chute Peabody**
 Cantos 1-10 in *Dante's Hell. Cantos I-X.*

1859 *Inferno* **John Wesley Thomas**
 Thomas – Part I of *The Divine Comedy.*

Inferno **Bruce Whyte**

1862 *Inferno* **Hugh Bent***
 Documented to exist but lost.

Inferno **Claudia Hamilton Ramsay**
 Ramsay – Part I of *The Divine Comedy.* First Complete translation by a woman. The title page states the author as Mrs. Ramsay.

Purgatorio **Claudia Hamilton Ramsay**
 Ramsay – Part II of *The Divine Comedy.*

Purgatorio **John Wesley Thomas**
 Thomas – Part II of *The Divine Comedy.*

Inferno **William Patrick Wilkie**

1863 *Paradiso* **Claudia Hamilton Ramsay**
 Ramsay – Part III of *The Divine Comedy.*

1865 *The Divine Comedy* **John Dayman**
 Published the *Inferno* in 1843. He did not previously publish *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso* as separate volumes.

Inferno **James Ford**
 Published *The Divine Comedy* in 1870.

Inferno **Thomas William Parsons**
 Cantos 1-17. See 1842 Parsons.

Inferno **William Michael Rossetti**

1866 *Paradiso* **John Wesley Thomas**
 Thomas – Part III of *The Divine Comedy.*

1867 *Inferno* **David Johnston**
 Johnston – Part I of *The Divine Comedy.*

Purgatorio **David Johnston**
 Johnston – Part II of *The Divine Comedy.*

The Divine Comedy **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Inferno **Thomas William Parsons**
 See 1842 Parsons.

1868 *Inferno* **John Francis William Herschel**
 Canto 1 in *Cornhill Magazine*, July.

Paradiso **David Johnston**
 Johnston – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1869 *Inferno* **Charlotte Yonge**
 Published as a serial in *Monthly Packet of Evening Readings for Younger Members of the English Church*. Yonge translated the following cantos from the *Inferno*: 1869, Vol. VII, Cantos 1, 3-5, 8, 9. 1869, Vol. VIII, Cantos 10, 12, 14, 19. 1870, Vol. IX, Cantos 21-24. 1870, Vol. X, Cantos 25-27, 32-34. From the *Purgatorio*: 1871, Vol. XI, Cantos 1, 2, 5, 6. 1871, Vol. XII, Cantos 8-10. 1872, Vol. XIII, Cantos 12, 13. 1872, Vol. XIV, Canto 16. 1873, Vol. XV, 19, 21. 1873, Vol. XVI, 22, 24, 27.

1870 *The Divine Comedy* **James Ford**
 Published the *Inferno* in 1865. He did not previously publish *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso* as separate volumes

1871 (*The Divine Comedy*) **Maria Francesca Rosetti**
Shadow of Dante. Paraphrased with commentary.

1874 (*Inferno*) **Henry Bernard Cotterill**
Dante: Selections from the Inferno. Paraphrased with commentary.

Inferno **Ernest Ridsdale Ellaby**
 Cantos 1-10 in *The Inferno of Dante Alighieri, Cantos I-X*.

1875 *Purgatorio* **Thomas William Parsons**
 Cantos 1-8 in *The Ante-Purgatorio*. See Parsons, 1842.

1876 *The Divine Comedy* **William Charteris**
 Unpublished manuscript. Year approximate.

1877 (*The Divine Comedy*) **Margaret Oliphant**
Foreign Classics for English Readers: Dante. The title page states the author as Mrs. Oliphant. Paraphrased with commentary.

Inferno **Charles Tomlinson**

1879 *The Divine Comedy* **Warburton Pike**
Translations from Dante, Petrarch, Michael Angelo and Vittoria Colonna. From the *Inferno*, Cantos and parts: 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 18, 19, 22-26, 32-33. *Purgatorio*, Cantos and parts: 2, 6, 8, 11, 30, 31. *Paradiso*: Cantos and parts 15, 17, 33. On page v of the author's preface he states that Canto 33 was translated 'by a lady, who also helped me in the revision

of the *Divina Commedia*'. Published *The Divine Comedy* in 1881.

1880 *Purgatorio* **Arthur John Butler**
 Butler – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.
Paradiso **James Macgregor***
 This translation is written in the margins of an 1827 publication of the *Commedia*.

1881 *The Divine Comedy* **Warburton Pike**
 Selected Cantos and parts previously published. See note under 1879 Pike.

1883 *Purgatorio* **William Stratford Dugdale***

1884 *Inferno* **James Romanes Sibbald**

1885 *The Divine Comedy* **James Innes Minchin**
Paradiso **Arthur James Butler**
 Butler – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1886 *Inferno* **Edward Hayes Plumptre**
 Plumptre – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*. The *Inferno* and *Purgatorio* were published together as Volume 1. The *Paradiso*, along with *Canzoniere* were published as Volume 2 in 1887.
Purgatorio **Edward Hayes Plumptre**
 Plumptre – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*. The *Inferno* and *Purgatorio* were published together as Volume 1. The *Paradiso*, along with *Canzoniere* were published as Volume 2 in 1887.

1887 *The Divine Comedy* **Frederick Kneeller Haselfoot Haselfoot**
Purgatorio **Edward Hayes Plumptre**
 Plumptre – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. This was published along with *Canzoniere* as Volume 2. The *Inferno* and *Purgatorio* were published as Volume 1 in 1886.
(Purgatorio) **Rose Emily Selfe**
How Dante Climbed the Mountain. Includes a brief summary of the *Inferno*. Paraphrased with commentary.

1888 *The Divine Comedy* **John Augustine Wilstach**
 In two volumes.

1889 *Purgatorio* **William Warren Vernon**
 Vernon – Part II of *The Divine Comedy* in two volumes.

1891 *Inferno* **Charles Eliot Norton**
 Norton – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.
Purgatorio **Charles Eliot Norton**
 Norton – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1892 *Inferno* **Arthur John Butler**
 Butler – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.
(The Divine Comedy) **Elizabeth Harrison**
The Vision of Dante, a Story for Little Children and a Talk to their Mothers. Paraphrased with commentary.
Paradiso **Charles Eliot Norton**
 Norton – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. The *Inferno* and *Purgatorio* were republished this same year.
Purgatorio **Charles Lancelot Shadwell***
 Cantos 1-27. Cantos 28-33 were published in 1899. Shadwell's *Paradiso* was published in 1915.
(Inferno) **Arthur Henry Young**
 A series of comic adaptations – *Hell Up To Date*. An expanded revised edition was published as a book in 1901 under the title *Through Hell with Hiprah Hunt*.

1893 *The Divine Comedy* **George Musgrave**
The Divine Comedy **Emelia Russell Gurney**
Dante's Pilgrim Progress. Paraphrased with commentary.
The Divine Comedy **Thomas William Parsons**
 This version is incomplete. See 1842 Parsons.
The Divine Comedy **Edward Sullivan**

1894 *Inferno* **William Warren Vernon**
 Vernon – Part I of *The Divine Comedy* in two volumes.

1895 *Inferno* **Robert Urquhart**
 Privately printed.

1896 *The Divine Comedy* **Caroline Potter**
 Incomplete. 17 cantos from throughout *The Divine Comedy* in *Cantos from the Divina Commedia of Dante*. The title page states the author as C. Potter. 25 cantos were published in 1897. 39 cantos were published in 1899. In 1904 she published *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso* with Cantos 1, 4, and 5 from the *Inferno*.

1897 *Paradiso* **Edward Henry Pember**
 Canto 15 in *Adrastus*. Published *Purgatorio*, Canto 8 (1899), Cantos 28-33 (unpublished 1917), and *Inferno*, Cantos 1-4 (1901).

The Divine Comedy **Caroline Potter**
 Incomplete. 25 cantos from throughout *The Divine Comedy*. See Potter 1896.

1898 *Inferno* **Eugene Lee-Hamilton**
 Lee-Hamilton did a draft translation (unpublished) of the *Purgatorio* in 1904.

(*The Divine Comedy*) **Norley Chester (Emily Underdown)**
 In *Stories from Dante*. Paraphrased with commentary.

1899 *Purgatorio* **Arthur Compton Auchmuty***
Purgatorio **Edward Henry Pember**
 Canto 8 in *The Death Song of Thamyris*. Also translated Cantos 28-33 (1917), but they have not been published. Published *Paradiso*, Canto 15 (1897), and *Inferno*, Cantos 1-4 (1901).

Purgatorio **Samuel Home***
 Cantos 1-16 in *The Purgatory of Dante: A New Translation in the Original Rhythm, Part I*. Cantos 1-31 were published under the same title in 1901.

The Divine Comedy **Caroline Potter**
 Incomplete. 39 cantos from throughout *The Divine Comedy*. See Potter 1896.

Purgatorio **Charles Lancelot Shadwell***
 Cantos 28-33 in *The Purgatory of Dante Alighieri; Part II, The Earthly Paradise*. Cantos 1-27 were published in 1892. *Paradiso* was published in 1915.

Paradiso **Philip Henry Wicksteed***
The Divine Comedy **Epiphanius Wilson**
 Incomplete. Various translated excerpts of cantos in *Dante Interpreted*.

18?? *Inferno* **Anonymous**
 Unpublished Manuscript. Cantos 1-13.

1900 *The Divine Comedy* **Anonymous**
 Unpublished Manuscript. *Fragments of an anonymous translation*

into English verse of Dante, Divina Commedia. Year approximate.

(*The Divine Comedy*) **Susan Cunningham**

Stories from Dante. Paraphrased with commentary.

(*The Divine Comedy*) **Edmund Garratt Gardner**

Dante. Paraphrased with commentary.

The Divine Comedy **Arthur Newton Peaslee**

Unpublished manuscript. Year approximate.

Paradiso **William Warren Vernon**

Vernon – Part III of *The Divine Comedy* in two volumes.

1901 *The Divine Comedy* **Richard James Cross**

Incomplete. Various translated excerpts of cantos in *Selections from Dante's Divina Commedia*.

Inferno **John Carpenter Garnier**

Privately printed.

Purgatorio **Samuel Home***

Cantos 17-31 in *The Purgatory of Dante: A New Translation in the Original Rhythm*. Cantos 1-16 were previously published under the same title in 1899. Cantos 1-31 were also published as one volume in 1901.

Purgatorio **Thomas Okey***

Inferno **Edward Henry Pember**

Cantos 1-4 in *The Finding of Pheidippides and Other Poems*. Limited to 150 copies for private circulation. Published *Purgatorio*, Canto 8 (1899) and *Paradiso*, Canto 15 (1897). Unpublished, *Purgatorio*, Cantos 28-33 (1917).

(*Inferno*) **Arthur Henry Young**

Through Hell with Hiprah Hunt. An expanded revised edition of an earlier publication, *Hell Up To Date*. See young, 1892.

1902 *The Divine Comedy* **Edward Clarke Lowe**

Privately printed. Republished in 1904.

The Divine Comedy **Charles Eliot Norton**

Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1891), *Purgatorio* (1891), and *Paradiso* (1892).

1903 (*Inferno*)

John Smyth Carroll

Exiles of Eternity: An Exposition of Dante's Inferno. Paraphrased with commentary.

(Inferno) **George Arthur Greene**

Dantesques, A Sonnet Companion to the Inferno. Each canto has a one-page summary followed by an interpretive sonnet.

Inferno **Samuel Walker Griffith**

Privately printed. *Draft of a Literal Translation of Dante's Inferno in the Original Metre.* Published whole in 1908. Published the complete *Divine Comedy* in 1909.

(Inferno) **Henry Fotheringham Henderson**

The Dream of Dante: An Interpretation of the Inferno. Paraphrased with commentary.

Inferno **Edward Wilberforce**

Published the complete *Divine Comedy* in 1909.

1904 *(Inferno)* **Adolphus Thomas Ennis**

Introduction to Dante's Inferno. Paraphrased with commentary.

Purgatorio **Eugene Lee-Hamilton**

Unpublished manuscript. Lee-Hamilton published the *Inferno* in 1898.

The Divine Comedy **Caroline Potter**

Incomplete. Published under the title *Purgatorio and Paradiso from the Divina Commedia of Dante.* Only includes Cantos 1, 4, and 5 from the *Inferno.* See Potter 1896.

The Divine Comedy **Henry Fanshawe Tozer**

Inferno **Marvin Richardson Vincent**

(Inferno) **(Marion) Alice Wyld**

The Dread Inferno: Notes for the Beginners in the Study of Dante. Paraphrased with commentary.

1905 *Inferno* **Calvin Coolidge***

Documented to exist but lost. Coolidge gave the translation to his wife, Grace, as a wedding gift. He was the 30th President of the United States.

Purgatorio **Charles Gordon Wright***

1907 *(The Divine Comedy)* **Marie-Louise Egerton Castle**

Dante. Bell's Miniature Series of Poets. Paraphrased with commentary.

1908 *Paradiso* **Frances Isabella Fraser***
Inferno **Samuel Walker Griffith**
Inferno was previously printed (see note, 1903 Griffith). Published *The Divine Comedy* in 1911.

1909 *Inferno* **Charles Hall Grandgent**
Grandgent – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*. Not complete, multiple excerpts.
(The Divine Comedy) **Mary Macgregor**
Stories from Dante Told to the Children. Paraphrased summary. Ends after Purgatorio with a brief mention of the *Paradiso*. Originally published without a date, but one academic article, 'Exploiting Dante: Dante and his women popularizers, 1850-1910' by Ann Laurence, 2011, gives the publication year as 1909 in the article, but 1907 in the endnotes. Also, the article states this book is #39 in the 'Told to the Children' series. Further, pertaining to Ms. Macgregor, there is much biographical and bibliographical misinformation throughout the internet, particularly on Amazon, where Mary Macgregor (this author), who was a British writer, is conflated with Mary Esther Macgregor, a Canadian writer, who wrote under the pseudonym of Marian Keith, who happened to be writing at the same time.
The Divine Comedy **Edward Wilberforce**
Published the *Inferno* in 1903. He did not previously publish *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso* as separate volumes.

1910 *Purgatorio* **Agnes Louisa Money***
The Divine Comedy **John Wesley Thomas**
Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1859), *Purgatorio* (1862), and *Paradiso* (1866).

1911 *(Inferno)* -----
L'Inferno. An Italian silent film directed by Francesco Bertolini, Giuseppe de Liguoro, and Adolfo Padovan
Purgatorio **Charles Hall Grandgent**
Grandgent – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*. Not complete, multiple excerpts.

The Divine Comedy **Samuel Walker Griffith**
 Griffith's *Inferno* was published 1908 (privately in 1903). He did not previously publish *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso* as separate volumes.

The Divine Comedy **Charles Edwin Wheeler**

1912 *Inferno* **Sidney Gunn**
 Canto 1 in *The Sawanee Review*, Vol. 20, No. 4, October.

1913 *Inferno* **Gauntlett Chaplin**
 Cantos are incomplete. *Dante for the People. Selected Passages from the Divine Comedy in English Verse.*

Paradiso **Charles Hall Grandgent**
 Grandgent – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. Not complete, multiple excerpts.

(*The Divine Comedy*) **Frédéric Ozanam**
Dante and the Catholic Philosophy in the Thirteenth Century.
 Paraphrased summary with commentary. Translated from French by Lucia D. Pychowska.

1914 *Inferno* **John Pyne**
 Canto 1, excerpts of cantos 3, 4, and 5 in *An English Dante*.

The Divine Comedy **Edith Mary Shaw**

1915 *Inferno* **Joshua Edward Edwardes**
The Divine Comedy **Henry Johnson**
Paradiso **Charles Lancelot Shadwell***
 Cantos 1-27 and Cantos 28-33 of the *Purgatorio* were published in 1892 and 1899 respectively.

1916 (*The Divine Comedy*) **Alfred Mansfield Brooks**
Dante. How to Know Him. Paraphrased, summary, and select passages translated.

1917 *Inferno* **Edward Henry Pember**
 Unpublished Manuscript. Cantos 28-33. Published *Inferno*, Cantos 1-4 (1901), *Purgatorio*, Canto 8 (1899), and *Paradiso*, Canto 15 (1897).
Inferno **Alan Seeger***
 Canto 26 in *Poems*.

1918 *Inferno* **Courtney Langdon**
 Langdon – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

1919 *Inferno* **Eleanor Prescott Hammond**
 Cantos 1-7 in *Dante in English*.

1920 *Purgatorio* **Courtney Langdon**
 Langdon – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.
Inferno **Eleanor Vinton Murray**
 Privately printed.
(The Divine Comedy) **Henry Dwight Sedgwick**
Dante: An Elementary Book for Those Who Seek in the Great Poet the Teacher of Spiritual Life. Paraphrased with commentary.

1921 *The Divine Comedy* **Melville Best Anderson**
Paradiso **Courtney Langdon**
 Langdon – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1922 *Inferno* **Henry John Hooper**

1923 *(The Divine Comedy)* **Robert Ethol Welsh**
Classics of the Soul's Quest. Paraphrased with commentary.

1927 *The Divine Comedy* **David James MacKenzie**
Inferno **John Jay Chapman***
 Canto 4 in *Dante*.

1928 *Inferno* **Albert Rosolino Bandini**
 Bandini – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.
Inferno **Sydney Fowler Wright**
 Wright did not publish *Purgatorio* until 1954. *Paradiso* was never published in his lifetime, but his daughter prepared it for publication and, at the time of this publication, it is only available via print-on-demand through wildsidepress.com.

1930 *Purgatorio* **Albert Rosolino Bandini**
 Bandini – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1931 *Paradiso* **Albert Rosolino Bandini**
 Bandini – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. This same year his *Divine Comedy* was also published as one volume.

The Divine Comedy **Jefferson Butler Fletcher**
Inferno **Lucy Lockert**

1932 *Inferno* **Henry Bellamann**
 Unpublished manuscript. Cantos 1-5. Canto 1 was published in a

South Carolina newspaper, *The State*. Sadly, according to a letter written by Katherine Bellamann (Henry's wife) dated May 5, 1949, Henry had completed his translation of the *Inferno*, as well as some cantos from *Paradiso*, but she misplaced it during a move. The only thing she was able to find afterwards was the rough drafts of Cantos 1-5.

Paradiso **Geoffrey Langdale Bickersteth**
 Bickersteth published his *Divine Comedy* in 1955.

1933 *Inferno* **Laurence Binyon**
 Binyon – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

1934 *Inferno* **Louis How**
 How – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

1936 (*The Divine Comedy*) **Elizabeth Home Bigg-Wither**
Stories from Dante. Paraphrased.

1938 *Purgatorio* **Laurence Binyon**
 Binyon – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.
The Divine Comedy **Ralph Thomas Bodey**
 200 numbered copies.

Purgatorio **Louis How**
 How – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1939 *Inferno* **John Dickson Sinclair**
 Sinclair – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.
Purgatorio **John Dickson Sinclair**
 Sinclair – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1940 *Paradiso* **Louis How**
 How – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1942 *The Divine Comedy* **Louis How**
 Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1934), *Purgatorio* (1938), and *Paradiso* (1940). Box Set.

1943 *Paradiso* **Laurence Binyon**
 Binyon – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1946 *Paradiso* **John Dickson Sinclair**
 Sinclair – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1947 *The Divine Comedy* **Laurence Binyon**

Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1933), *Purgatorio* (1938), and *Paradiso* (1943).

1948 *Inferno* **Thomas Goddard Bergin**

Bergin – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

The Divine Comedy **Patrick Cummins**

The Divine Comedy **John Dickson Sinclair**

Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1939), *Purgatorio* (1939), and *Paradiso* (1946). In 3 volumes

The Divine Comedy **Lawrence Grant White**

1949 *Inferno* **Harry Morgan Ayres**

Ayres – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Dorothy Leigh Sayers**

Sayers – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **John Humphreys Whitfield**

Cantos 1-4 in *Dante and Virgil*.

1952 *Paradiso* **Thomas Weston Ramsey***

1953 *Purgatorio* **Harry Morgan Ayres**

Ayres – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

Paradiso **Harry Morgan Ayres**

Ayres – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Purgatorio **Thomas Goddard Bergin**

Bergin – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1954 *Paradiso* **Thomas Goddard Bergin**

Bergin – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **John Ciardi**

Ciardi – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

The Divine Comedy **Howard Russell Huse**

Purgatorio **Sydney Fowler Wright**

Published the *Inferno* in 1928. *Paradiso* was completed, but never published. See note under Wright, 1928.

1955 *The Divine Comedy* **Thomas Goddard Bergin**

Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1948), *Purgatorio* (1953), and *Paradiso* (1954). Box Set.

***The Divine Comedy* Geoffrey Langdale Bickersteth**

Bickersteth published the *Inferno* in 1932. He did not previously publish *Purgatorio* or *Paradiso* as separate volumes.

***Purgatorio* Dorothy Leigh Sayers**

Sayers – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1956 *The Divine Comedy* Glen Levin Swiggett

1958 *The Divine Comedy* Mary Prentice Lillie

300 numbered copies, box set. Published as one volume in 1965.

1961 *Purgatorio* John Ciardi

Ciardi – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

***Inferno* Warwick Fielding Chipman**

1962 *Inferno* Elizabeth Jennings*

Unpublished manuscript. Cantos 21-23. Canto 21 appeared to be missing the first 19 lines, but they were out of order and at the end of the canto. Year approximate.

***The Divine Comedy* Clara Stillman Reed**

Privately printed. Limited to 300 copies. Box set.

***Paradiso* Dorothy Leigh Sayers**

Sayers – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. Cantos 21-33 were completed by Barbara Reynolds.

1963 *The Divine Comedy* Dorothy Leigh Sayers

Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1949), *Purgatorio* (1955), and *Paradiso* (1962). Box set.

1965 *The Divine Comedy* William Francis Ennis

***The Divine Comedy* Mary Prentice Lillie**

Previously published in a limited run in 1958.

***Inferno* Aldo Maugeri**

***Inferno* Joseph Tusiani**

Tusiani – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*. A translation created for young adults. Paraphrased and summarized.

1966 *The Divine Comedy* Louis Biancolli

Box set.

Inferno* John Heath-Stubbs

Unpublished manuscript. Cantos 6-8.

Inferno **Terence Tiller, editor**
Dante's Inferno: The New Annotated BBC Edition in Italian and English. A composite of multiple translators.

1967 *Inferno* **Robert Lowell***
 Canto 15 in *Near the Ocean*.

1968 *Purgatorio* **Joseph Tusiani**
 Tusiani – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*. A translation created for young adults. Paraphrased and summarized.

1969 *The Divine Comedy* **Thomas Goddard Bergin**
 Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1948), *Purgatorio* (1953), and *Paradiso* (1954). Box set.

Inferno **Allan Gilbert**
Paradiso **Joseph Tusiani**
 Tusiani – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. A translation created for young adults. Paraphrased and summarized.

1970 *Paradiso* **John Ciardi**
 Ciardi – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Charles Singleton**
 Singleton – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*. ‘The Dante Society of America’ has the year published as 1971, but my first edition states 1970.

1971 *Inferno* **Mark Musa**
 Musa – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

1973 *Purgatorio* **Charles Singleton**
 Singleton – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1975 (*Inferno*) **Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle**
 Science fiction revision of the *Inferno*.

Paradiso **Charles Singleton**
 Singleton – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

1977 *The Divine Comedy* **John Ciardi**
 Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1954), *Purgatorio* (1961), and *Paradiso* (1970).

1979 *The Divine Comedy* **Kenneth Mackenzie**

1980 *Inferno* **Willis Barnstone**
 Canto 1 in the *Chicago Review*. His previous draft exists unpublished.

Inferno **Allen Mandelbaum**
 Mandelbaum – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

(Inferno) Pier Paolo Pasolini *The Divine Mimesis*. A loose contemporary and autobiographical retelling of the *Inferno* critiquing Italian society during the 1960's. Translated by Thomas Erling Peterson. Originally published as *La Divina Mimesis*, Torino, 1975.

The Divine Comedy **Charles Hubert Sisson**

1981 *Purgatorio* **Mark Musa**
 Musa – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

1982 *Purgatorio* **Allen Mandelbaum**
 Mandelbaum – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

Paradiso **Allen Mandelbaum**
 Mandelbaum – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Peter Whigham**
 Unpublished manuscript. Cantos 1-4. Whigham translated lines 100-133 of Canto 9 in 1980 and Cantos 10, 11, and 15 in 1987.

1983 *Inferno* **Tom Phillips**
 A small press run of 180 copies were printed by *Talfourd Press, London*. *It was republished in 1985 by Thames and Hudson*. There was a film version of Phillips' first 8 Cantos directed by Peter Greenaway called 'A TV Dante' released in 1983. https://www.ubu.com/film/greenaway-phillips_dante.html.

1984 *Paradiso* **Mark Musa**
 Musa – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Paradiso **Allen Mandelbaum**
 Mandelbaum – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. All sources clearly state this book was published in 1984, but in my first edition copy the publisher's page states 1982.

1985 *Inferno* **Patrick Boyde**
 Canto 1 in *Divine Comedy Introductory Readings of Selected Cantos*. Editor Uberto Limentani.

Paradiso **Kenelm Foster***
 Canto 17 in *Divine Comedy Introductory Readings of Selected Cantos*. Editor Uberto Limentani.

Inferno **Nicholas Kilmer**

1986 *Inferno* **Derrick Plant**

1987 *The Divine Comedy* **James Finn Cotter**

Inferno **Macha Louis Rosenthal**
The Poet's Art. Translated the first two tercets of Canto 1, lines 1-6, and the last two tercets of Canto 34, lines 133-139.

Inferno **Peter Whigham**
 Unpublished manuscript. Cantos 10, 11, and 15. Whigham translated Canto 9, lines 100-133 in 1980 and Cantos 1-4 in 1982.

1989 *Inferno* **Patrick Creagh & Robert Hollander**
 Canto 1 and 2 were published in the same year, but in subsequent editions. Canto 3 was published in 1993, though the publisher's page states the copyright date for Creagh and Hollander's translation as 1992.

(Inferno) **Robert Sikoryak**
Inferno Joe. Partial excerpts from throughout the *Inferno*. A parody based on the bubble gum comic known as Bazooka Joe.

Inferno **Valeria Tinkler-Villani**
 Lines 1-9 of Canto 1, *Visions of Dante in English Poetry*. In the 'Notes' to Chapter 5. There is no translator listed for this excerpt, whereas everywhere else in the book a translator is attributed. Based on this I am assuming she was the translator.)

1991 *Inferno* **Tibor Wlassics**
 Unpublished manuscript. In *Dethroning Dante* by Tim Smith, 2016, the year is listed as 1991. The manuscript copy I received from the University of Virginia is from a class he taught in the Spring of 1997.

1992 *(Inferno)* **Ken Cockburn**
 Lines 1-27 of Canto 1 in *Poiesis: Aspects of Contemporary Poetic Activity*.

Inferno **Erik Jackson**
 Comic book three-issue miniseries.

1993 *Inferno* **Daniel Halpern, editor**
Dante's Inferno: Translations by 20 Contemporary Poets. A composite of multiple translators.

Paradiso **James Torrens***

1994	<i>The Divine Comedy</i>	Stephen Wentworth Arndt
	<i>Inferno</i>	Steve Ellis
	<i>Inferno</i>	Robert Pinsky
1996	<i>The Divine Comedy</i>	Peter Dale
	<i>Inferno</i>	Robert Marlowe Durling
	Durling – Part I of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>Inferno</i>	Benedict Flynn
	Audiobook. Released <i>The Divine Comedy</i> in 2004	
1997	<i>Inferno</i>	Kathryn Lindskoog
	Lindskoog – Part I of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>Purgatorio</i>	Kathryn Lindskoog
	Lindskoog – Part II of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>(Inferno)</i>	Loreena McKennitt
	Lyrics from the song ‘Dante’s Prayer’ on McKennitt’s album <i>The Book of Secrets</i> .	
1998	<i>Inferno</i>	Joan Taber Altieri
	Lines 1-3 of Canto 1, ‘Dante’s Inferno in Translation’ published in <i>Translation Review</i> .	
	<i>Paradiso</i>	Kathryn Lindskoog
	Lindskoog – Part III of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>Inferno</i>	Elio Zappulla
2000	<i>The Divine Comedy</i>	Anthony Stephen Kline
	Originally published online. Print copy released in 2004.	
	<i>Paradiso</i>	William Stanley Merwin*
	Canto 2 in <i>The Yale Review</i> , 88, No. 2.	
	<i>Purgatorio</i>	William Stanley Merwin*
	Translations of <i>Inferno</i> Cantos 26 and 27 are included in the Forward.	
	<i>Inferno</i>	Robert & Jean Hollander
	Hollander – Part I of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>(The Divine Comedy)</i>	Derek Philcox
	An abridged paraphrasing.	
	<i>(The Divine Comedy)</i>	Gilda Sbrilli
	<i>Dante’s Great Adventure: Selected Cantos from the Divine Comedy</i> .	
	A prose adaption.	

Inferno **Armand Schwerner**
 Cantos 1-10, 15, and 21 in *Cantos from Dante's Inferno*.

2001 *The Divine Comedy* **Joseph Tusiani**
 Cantica previously published separately – *Inferno* (1965), *Purgatorio* (1968), and *Paradiso* (1969).

2002 *Inferno* **Ciaran Carson**
Inferno **Anthony Michael Esolen**
 Esolen – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.
(Inferno) **Bianca Froese-Acquaye**
 Lyrics from the song 'The Spirit of Virgil' on the Tangerine Dream album *Inferno*.

Inferno **Michael Palma**

2003 *Purgatorio* **Robert Marlowe Durling**
 Durling – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.
Purgatorio **Robert & Jean Hollander**
 Hollander – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*
Purgatorio **Anthony Michael Esolen**
 Esolen – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.
Inferno **Seth Zimmerman**

2004 *(Inferno)* **Marcus Sanders**
 Sanders – Part I of The Divine Comedy. A modern adaptation.
 Illustrated by Sandow Birk.
The Divine Comedy **Benedict Flynn**
 Audiobook. Released the *Inferno* in 1996.

Paradiso **Anthony Michael Esolen**
 Esolen – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

2005 *Inferno* **John Gordon Nichols**
 Nichols – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.
(Purgatorio) **Marcus Sanders**
 Sanders – Part II of The Divine Comedy. A modern adaptation.
 Illustrated by Sandow Birk.
(Paradiso) **Marcus Sanders**
 Sanders – Part III of The Divine Comedy. A modern adaptation. This book is commonly referred to through the illustrator, Sandow Birk.

	<i>The Divine Comedy</i>	(Gary) Leon Stephens
2006	<i>Inferno</i>	Robin Kirkpatrick
	Kirkpatrick – Part I of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>(Inferno)</i>	Andreas Kisser
	Lyrics from the song 'Dark Wood of Error' on the Sepultura album <i>Dante XXI</i> .	
	<i>Inferno</i>	Sean O'Brien
2007	<i>(Inferno)</i>	Cinzia Bigazzi
	<i>Dante for Fun: The Inferno</i> . An adaptation for children.	
	<i>(Purgatorio)</i>	Cinzia Bigazzi
	<i>Dante for Fun: The Purgatory</i> . An adaptation for children.	
	<i>Paradiso</i>	Robert & Jean Hollander
	Hollander – Part III of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>Purgatorio</i>	Robin Kirkpatrick
	Kirkpatrick – Part II of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>Paradiso</i>	Robin Kirkpatrick
	Kirkpatrick – Part III of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
	<i>Inferno</i>	Frank Salvidio
	<i>Inferno</i>	Tom Simone
	Simone – Part I of <i>The Divine Comedy</i> .	
2008	<i>(Inferno)</i>	John Agard
	<i>The Young Inferno</i> . A loose adaptation for children	
	<i>(Paradiso)</i>	Cinzia Bigazzi
	<i>Dante for Fun: The Paradise</i> . An adaptation for children.	
	<i>(Inferno)</i>	Sam Carbaugh
	Brief comic adaptation of the opening of Canto 1.	
	<i>(Inferno)</i>	Elisabeth Tonnard
	Lines 1-3, Canto 1 in <i>In this Dark Wood</i> .	
2009	<i>(Inferno)</i>	Alexander Aciman & Emmett Rensin
	Comical adaptation in <i>Twitterature</i> .	
	<i>(Inferno)</i>	David Bruce
	Paraphrased. Published <i>The Divine Comedy</i> in 2012.	
	<i>Inferno</i>	Stanley Lombardo

Lombardo – Part I of the *The Divine Comedy*.

(Inferno) **KimPaffenroth**

Loose adaptation in *Valley of the Dead: The Truth Behind Dante's Inferno*.

2010 *Inferno* **Boris Acosta**

Film entitled *Dante's Inferno – Abandon All Hope – Part 1*.

(The Divine Comedy) **Seymour Chwast**

Graphic adaptation.

Inferno **Anthony Cristiano**

Paradiso **Robert Marlowe Durling**

Durling – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Klaus-Jens Gerken**

Canto 1. Published online, *academia.edu*.

Inferno **John Lambert**

Lambert – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

The Divine Comedy **Burton Raffel**

(Inferno) **Gary Reed**

Loose comic adaptation in *Sin Eternal: Return to Dante's Inferno*.

(Inferno) **Seth Steinzor**

Steinzor – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*. Contemporary adaptation called *To Join the Lost*.

2011 *The Divine Comedy* **Paul S. Bruckman**

Purgatorio **John Lambert**

Lambert – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

Purgatorio **John Gordon Nichols**

Nichols – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Robert Mitchell Torrance**

2012 *Inferno* **Mary Jo Bang**

Bang – Part I of *The Divine Comedy. Part III?*

The Divine Comedy **David Bruce**

Paraphrased. Published *Inferno* in 2012.

(Inferno) **Kevin Jackson & Hunt Emerson**

Graphic novel adaptation.

(Inferno) **Maila Joy Pring Fuentes**

‘Dante_s Inferno Final Script’

(Inferno) **Hugo the Poet**

Canto 1. *YouTube* video.

Paradiso **John Lambert**

Lambert – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

(Inferno) **Joseph Lanzara**

Graphic novel adaptation.

Inferno **Tim Love**

Lines 1-3, Canto 1. On Love’s blog, *Litre’s Articles: Literary Articles by Tim Love*.

Paradiso **John Gordon Nichols**

Nichols – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

(Inferno) **Crissy Williams**

Lines 1-3, Canto 1. William’s poem is an amalgamation of multiple translator’s opening tercet of Canto 1.

Inferno **Patrick Worsnip**

Unpublished. Canto 1. As of the writing of this book, Worsnip has translated 97 of the 100 Cantos in *The Divine Comedy*. Canto 2 of the *Inferno* was published in 2017 in *To Hell and Back*. Canto 5 of the *Inferno* was published in the *International Writer’s Journal*, No. 1, 2021, and Canto 33 of the *Purgatorio* was published in *After Dante: Poets in Purgatory* (edited by Nick Havely) in July 2021.

2013 (Inferno) Ron Bassilian

Graphic Novel adaptation. Originally called *Inferno 2010* and in 2010 was a successful Kickstarter project.

Inferno **Vincent Di Stefano**

On Di Stefano’s blog, *Blogger*.

(Inferno) **Andre Rene Hopper**

Loose contemporary adaptation. *Perdition’s Epilogue*. Published in 2014. Note in eBook states first published in December 2013.

(Inferno) **Ethan Christopher Jahns**

Paraphrased using Durling’s and Hollander’s translations. Jahn’s told me the first printing was in 2013, but he only had a few printed. It was re-released in 2014 as a Print-on-Demand.

The Divine Comedy **Clive James**

2014 *Inferno* **Joshua Simon Harris**

Cantos 1, 2, 12, 21, 22 are on Harris's blog, *J. Simon Harris: Thoughts and writing samples from the writer J. Simon Harris*. It states that he finished his final revision of Canto 1 in 2014 or early 2015.

(Inferno) **Douglas Neff**

Neff used Longfellow's translation as a base and modernized the language.

(Inferno) **P. T. Ryan**

With Malice Towards All. Loose contemporary adaptation.

Purgatorio **Tom Simone**

Simone – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

(Inferno) **Philip Terry**

Loose contemporary adaptation.

(Inferno) **Zane Wallace**

Loose contemporary adaptation.

Inferno **Stephen Wyatt**

Audiobook on BBC Radio 4.

2015 *(Inferno)* **Declan Moran**

Loose contemporary adaptation. *Dante's Inferno: A Comedy*.

Inferno **John Daniel Thieme***

'A Translation of Canto V from Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*' at academia.edu.

2016 *Purgatorio* **Stanley Lombardo**

Lombardo – Part II of the *The Divine Comedy*.

(Inferno) **Guido Martina**

L'Inferno di Topolino, originally written in Italian by Guido Stefan Petrucha Martina, was published in *Topolino*, a Disney comic featuring the Italian name for Mickey Mouse. It was released in issues 7 through 12, October 1949 to March 1950. An English translation was abridged and released in 2006 under the title *Walt Disney's Comics and Stories* (issue 666). Canto 1 is just referred to in the 2006 publication. This edition was translated by Nanette McGuinness and then adapted by Stefan Petrucha.

Inferno **Tim Smith**

Canto 1 in *Dethroning Dante: Skopostheorie in Action.*

(Purgatorio) **Seth Steinzor**

Steinzor – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*. Contemporary adaptation.
Among the Lost.

Inferno **Peter Thornton**

2017 *Inferno* **Ned Denny**

Canto 1 in *To Hell and Back* edited by Tim Smith and Marco Sonzogni.
Denny published the *Inferno* in 2021.

Paradiso **Stanley Lombardo**

Lombardo – Part III of the *The Divine Comedy*.

Paradiso Tom Simone

Simone – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Angelaurelio Soldi**

(Inferno) **John Whitebred & Redd Whyne**

A loose satirical adaptation. *Breit New World*. Most likely pseudo anonymous.

Inferno **Patrick Worsnip**

Canto 2 in *To Hell and Back* edited by Tim Smith and Marco Sonzogni. As of the writing of this book, Worsnip has translated 97 of the 100 Cantos in *The Divine Comedy*. They are yet (except a few) to be published. See note in Worsnip 2012 for more details.

2018 *Inferno* **Jason Michael Baxter**

Various translated tercets used in conjunction with commentary in *A Beginner's Guide to Dante's Divine Comedy*. Mr. Baxter informed me he is hoping to publish his translation of *The Divine Comedy* in 2022.

(Inferno) **Christopher Brown**

Loose contemporary adaptation. *The Space Between*.

Inferno **Alasdair Gray**

Gray – Part I of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Daniel Zimmerman**

Paraphrased Summary.

2019 *(Inferno)* **Howard Oakley**

On Oakley's blog, *The Eclectic Light Company*. Paraphrased summary.

2020 *Inferno* **Sophie Grace Chappell**
 Canto 1. Published online, *academia.edu*. At the time of this writing, Chappell has translated Cantos 1-16.

Purgatorio **Alasdair Gray**
 Gray – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*.

Inferno **Samuel Johnson**

(Inferno) **Chris McCabe**
 Lines 1-3, Canto 1. This adaptation was written specifically for this book. Unpublished.

(Inferno) **Steve McCaffrey**
 Lines 1-3, Canto 1. This adaptation was written specifically for this book. Unpublished.

Inferno **Mark Scarbrough**
 Canto 1. Scarbrough translates portions of the *Inferno* for his podcast *Walking with Dante*. As of the writing of this book, he has translated Cantos 1-17.

(Inferno) **Barrie Tullet & Russell Spera**
 Lines 1-3, Canto 1. Unpublished.

2021 *Purgatorio* **Mary Jo Bang**
 Bang – Part II of *The Divine Comedy*. The author informed me that she did intend to translate *Paradiso*.

Purgatorio **David Macleod Black**

(Inferno) **Dennis Business**
 Canto 1 and 2. *YouTube* video.

Inferno **Federico Corradini**
Dante's Inferno for Kids and Curious Parents. A children's version originally in Italian. Translated by Camilla Hanako Williams. Corradini also wrote children's versions of *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*, but as of this writing they have not been translated into English.

The Divine Comedy **Gerald J. Davis**

Inferno **Ned Denny**
 Denny's translation is titled 'B'. Canto 1 was published in *To Hell and Back*, 2017, edited by Tim Smith and Marco Sonzogni.

Paradiso **Alasdair Gray**
Gray – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*.

Purgatorio **Nick Havely, editor**
After Dante: Poets in Purgatory. A composite of multiple translators.

(Inferno) **Alex Selenitsch**
Lines 1-3, Canto 1. This adaptation was written specifically for this book. Unpublished.

(Paradiso) **Seth Steinzor**
Steinzor – Part III of *The Divine Comedy*. Contemporary adaptation. *Once was Lost*.

Inferno **Russell Spera**
Unpublished. Canto 1. As of the writing of this book, Spera has translated cantos 1-6.

Inferno **Patrick Worsnip**
Canto 5 in the *International Writer's Journal*, No. 1. See note in Worsnip 2012 for more details.

Purgatorio **Patrick Worsnip**
Canto 33 in *After Dante: Poets in Purgatory*, 2021. See note in Worsnip 2012 for more details.

Odds & Ends

I. Unverified Tercets

a. It was inevitable that throughout this project I would come across a few tercets that could not have their origins verified. Below are listed those few.

In the middle of the road of my life,
I awoke in the dark wood,
where the true way was wholly lost.

This tercet gave me the most trouble. Its appearance is rampant throughout online searches, even showing up on mugs and t-shirts. Searching eventually led me to the Goodreads author's page¹ of John Eldridge. The quote is on that site and can also be found in his book *Wild at Heart*. On the back cover of this book, he mentions John Ciardi's translation, which this is not (see p. 132). In the book, on page 101, is the above tercet and, in the footnotes, it is sourced thusly:

Dante Alighieri, The Comedy of Dante Alighieri, the Florentine, trans. Dorothy Sayers and Barbara Reynolds (London: Penguin Books, 1949).

Unfortunately, this is not Sayers's translation either (see p. 130) and as a side note, it states that Barbara Reynolds was co-translator in 1949, but this is not the case. Sayers was the sole translator for most of her *Divine Comedy: Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso* through Canto 20. Reynolds finished *Paradiso* after Sayer's passed away and that was published in 1962. Their complete *Divine Comedy* was published in 1963.

¹ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/1338217-in-the-middle-of-the-road-of-my-life-i>

b. The next tercet came from Tim Love's blog² (see p. 223). He had a list of quite a few opening tercets from the *Inferno*.

In the middle of my journey through life,
a dark wood overcame me
for I had lost my way.

Any information I found on this quote always circled back to Love's blog. When I contacted him, he was unsure as to its origin.

c. This last one is a puzzle. Barrie first found it in the PlayStation 3 video game *Datura*. The game opens with the opening tercet:

In the middle of our life's walk
I found myself in a dark wood
for the straight road was lost.

The game was developed by Sony Santa Monica and released in 2012. Further digging unearthed the same tercet in a book titled *Giving Well, Doing Good: Readings for Thoughtful Philanthropists* edited by Amy Kass. This book was published in 2008, four years prior. Within it there is an essay written by Philip B. Cubeta, 'Bequests and Legacies: Devising Philanthropic Strategies'. After the author's Bio and before the essay, is the tercet. I am not sure if it is part of the essay or added by the editor, nor could I find out (as of yet) where it originated.

² <http://litrefsarticles.blogspot.com/2012/04/translating-dantes-la-commedia-divina.htm>

II. Unpublished Manuscripts

I feel it would be helpful to include the bibliographical information for the unpublished manuscripts that could be accessed through libraries and universities. I did not include unpublished material that was acquired through personal correspondence or that could be found via internet searches. Further, not included are unpublished translations less than a canto. The only exception is Parsons, 1785, because he was already listed in this book. Some of this information is already in the bibliography, but it is listed here for easy reference.

c. 1785

William Parsons

Inferno, Canto 1, lines 1-33. Unpublished. Bertie Greatheed Papers. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. OSB MSS 68 Box 2 f.52.

1804

Robert Watson Wade

The Inferno of Dante. Translated from the Original. In Blank Verse. Together with the Life of the Author. London. Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Macauley Collection, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. UPenn Ms. Codex 2045.

1850

George Washington Greene

Inferno, Canto 1, lines 1-31. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library. 'Greene, George Washington (1811-1883)' (The New York Public Library Digital Collections, 1876). <https://digital-collections.nypl.org/items/2af0fd10-5a61-0133-30f7-00505686d14e..>

c. 1840 **Peter Hawke**
Cantos 1-17. Bibliothèque d'Angers, Angers, France, Accession # DEC-DIG-15296. MS. 1355.

c. 1840 **John Abraham Heraud**
Dell'Inferno of Dante Alighieri. The British Library, West Yorkshire, Archives and Manuscripts, Western Manuscripts. MS 39169.

c. 1876 **William Charteris**
Divina Commedia of Dante. 2 Volumes. The British Library, West Yorkshire, Archives and Manuscripts, Western Manuscripts. Add MS 39170-39171.

1880 **James Macgregor**
Paradiso. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries, Toynbee 984. (prose translation written on the margins of an 1827 publication of the *Commedia*).

18?? **Anonymous**
La Divina Commedia, Inferno. Cantos 1-13. The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. BANC MSS 75/15.

c. 1900 **Anonymous**
Fragments of an anonymous translation into English verse of Dante, Divina Commedia. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries, Paget Toynbee Manuscripts, MS Toynbee d. 16.

c. 1900 **Arthur Newton Peaslee**
Divine Comedy. Muskie Archives & Special Collections Library, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine. MC017.

1904 **Eugene Lee-Hamilton**
Purgatorio (Draft), Oxford, Bodleian Libraries, Paget Toynbee Manuscripts, MS. Toynbee d. 15.

1917 **Edward Henry Pember**
Purgatorio, Cantos 28-33. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries, Paget Toynbee Manuscripts, MS. Toynbee e. 3.

c.1932 **Henry Bellmann**
Inferno, Cantos 1-5. Duke University, David M. Rubenstein, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Henry Bellmann Papers, 1914-1945, Sec. A Box 10 items 1-25 c.1. (Canto 1 was published. See notes in Chronological List).

c. 1962 **Elizabeth Jennings**
Inferno, Cantos 21-23. Penn State University, Eberly Family Special Collections Library, Elizabeth Jennings papers, 1952-1972 (03572), Archives & Manuscript, Special Collections, 104 Paterno, Vault.

1966 **John Heath-Stubbs**
Inferno, Cantos 6-8. University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center, John Heath-Stubbs collection, Manuscript collection MS-1892, Container 3.5.

1991 **Peter Whigham**
Peter Whigham collection, circa 1980-1987. Unpublished. UCSB - Library, Special Collections. University of California, Santa Barbara, California. Call number: SC 754LOCAL. 1982.

1991 **Tibor Wlassics**
Inferno. Unpublished. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. MSS 12835.

III. Ugolino episode – Inferno, Canto 33

Before Charles Rogers published his translation of the *Inferno* in 1782, the first translation of a complete canticle from *The Divine Comedy*, there were many partial translations. One of the lengthier and more common portions translated was the Ugolino episode from the *Inferno*: Canto 33, lines 1-78. I only included the Ugolino episode and just the ones that pre-date Rogers. For a more complete list of all pre-Rogers partial translations see the *Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Dante Society*, ‘Chronological List of English Translations from Dante: From Chaucer to the Present Day’ by Paget Toynbee, 1906, pp. 1-6.

c. 1386

Geoffery Chaucer

Chaucer translated a part of the Ugolino episode. It is in the ‘Monk’s Tale’ of the *Canterbury Tales*, subtitled ‘De Hugelino Comite de Pize’. His translation coincides with lines 43-75. Seven octet stanzas with a rhyme scheme of ABABCBC.

1719

Mr. (Jonathan) Richardson

Richardson’s book *The Two Discourses: I. An Essay on the Whole Art of Criticism as it Relates to Painting; II. An Argument in Behalf of the Science of a Connoisseur* has two parts, each with their own set of page numbers. On pp. 30-32 of part II (*An Argument...*) is his translation of the Ugolino episode in blank verse. His translation runs 76 lines.

c. 1737 (1849, 1884)

Thomas Gray

It is estimated that Gray’s translation of the Ugolino episode was written sometime between 1737 and 1740. A 15-line excerpt was published in *The Gentleman’s Magazine*, 1849, Vol. 186, p. 343. The lines match up to lines 65-78. A longer partial translation was published in *The*

Works of Thomas Gray, 1884, Vol. I, pp. 157-160. This excerpt follows the Ugolino episode, lines 1-78, though Gray's blank verse translation is 84 lines in length. The excerpt is introduced with the following: 'This translation from Dante has never printed before. It is here given from a MS. in the handwriting of Mitford, in the possession of Lord Houghton. The holograph of Gray, which cannot now be traced, is said to have been sold for [18 pounds] in 1845' (sourced above).

1753

Giuseppe Baretti

Baretti translated the Ugolino episode in *A Dissertation upon the Italian Poetry*. Also included are excerpts of Canto 3 of the *Inferno*, lines 1-9, 22-30, 46-51, 103-108, and one tercet from *Paradiso*, Canto 27, lines 27-29. These translations along with commentary are on pp. 36-60.

1756

Joseph Warton

Though Warton has a translation of the Ugolino episode in his *Essay on the Genius and Writings of Pope*, Vol. 1, it is not his translation, but lines 43-75 of Baretti's. He was the brother of Thomas Warton (see below - 1781).

1773

Frederick Howard, fourth Earl of Carlisle

The Earl of Carlisle's Ugolino episode is in his book *Poems* on pp. 13-17. It is written in Heroic Couplets (except for 2 tercets) and is 86 lines in length.

1781

Thomas Warton

Warton's Ugolino episode is in *The History of English Poetry, from the Close of the Eleventh to the Commencement of the Eighteenth Century* on pp. 249-251. It coincides with lines 13-75. He was the brother of Joseph Warton (see above - 1756)

IV. Miscellaneous

Finally, this is where I put the wish-I-could-finds, the never-put-my-hands-on, the interesting close calls, and resources. I, in no way, exhausted the possibilities offered by internet searches. Even now, I am fighting the urge to chase Dante into that proverbial rabbit hole.

Alan Bern

Lines and Faces. <http://www.linesandfaces.com/divine-comedy>. A series of broadsides featuring excerpts from *The Divine Comedy*.

Toby Clark

The Divine Comedy. Lulu Self-Publishing, 2010. Quite a few of the Dante translations on the self-publishing websites are just reprints of Longfellow's translation even when an author besides Dante or Longfellow is listed. After the third one I bought that turned out to be Longfellow, I stopped buying them. This particular version of the *Commedia* thankfully says, 'republished by,' so I am assuming it is Longfellow again.

Elizabeth Coggshall and Arielle Saiber

Dante Today: Citings and Sightings of Dante's Works in Contemporary Culture. Website. <https://research.bowdoin.edu/dante-today/>. The title of the website says it all. An amazing website for everything Dante. Everything.

George Corbett and Heather Webb.

Vertical Readings in Dante's Comedy. Three volumes. Open Book Publishers, 2015. The Open Book Publishers website³ states, 'Vertical Readings in Dante's Comedy is a reappraisal of the poem by an international team of thirty-four scholars. Each vertical reading analyses three

³ <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/product/367>

same-numbered cantos from the three canticles: Inferno i, Purgatorio i, and Paradiso i; Inferno ii, Purgatorio ii, and Paradiso ii; etc.' I thought it was quite interesting.

Thomas Watson Duncan

The Beauties of the Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri. London: Heath, Cranton, 1926. This is one of the many Dante commentaries that I am curious to see (I decided not to include them all). This one is at the top of that list. There is a copy at Villanova University at the Falvey Memorial Library, but I could not get it through interlibrary loan, nor (on principle) am I willing to purchase a POD from Amazon.

Hermann Gollancz (translator)

Tophet and Eden (Hell and Paradise): In Imitation of Dante's Inferno and Paradiso. London, University of London Press, Ltd., 1921. On the title page: 'From the Hebrew of Immanuel ben Solomon Romi [1261-1328], a Contemporary of Dante.' Absolutely fascinating.

Jimmy Hatlo

Hatlo's Inferno. Ishi Press International, 2016. This is a collection of Hatlo's comics pertaining to the *Inferno* published in newspapers between 1951-54.

Bill Largess

Dante's Inferno. Washington Stage Guild production, University of Maryland. 2001. A one-man play based on the *Inferno*. The play was recorded on March 26, 2013 for the Washington Area Performing Arts, but viewing is restricted to the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library at the University of Maryland. At this time, I am unaware as to who's translation was used in the production.

Stephen Phillips

The New Inferno. New York, John Lane Company, 1910. Only read enough to know I couldn't use it, but it does loosely use some elements from the *Inferno*.

Christopher Jakob Rooney

Haiku Dante: The Inferno. Ardu Publications, 2016. My first crack at the *Inferno* was in haiku, but I had to sacrifice too much detail and abandoned it. This makes me want to try again.

James Sale

The English Cantos Vol. 1: Hellward. Independently published, 2020.

James Sale

The English Cantos Vol. 2: Stairwell. These are Sales's loose contemporary interpretations of the *Commedia*. Currently, only a few Cantos of Vol. 2 have been published thus far.

Lawrence Vernell

Dante's Airport: What If Hell for The Modern Man Is Modeled After the Atlanta Airport? ASIN: B01NCPWESD, 2016. An airport as hell. I think we can all relate. I found this while looking for a different one about an airport being Hell, which I read earlier, but could no longer locate.

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End Note

Barrie Tullett

I must say, that I think this is a wonderful book. I realise that this sounds rather arrogant, but when I put together the first edition, it was an interesting idea (I hope), but nothing very comprehensive. My research was fairly limited, and I knew that the contents, even then, lacked several entries.

How much they lacked soon became apparent, when Russell Spera got involved... And Russell has bought so much to the project. It is a totally different beast to the book that I made the first time around - not only has the page count quadrupled, but it's now a serious piece of academic research, and one that I hope might help inform Dante Scholars and Dante Sleuths for years to come.

The translations that Russell has unearthed show such a range of interpretations and re-imaginings. His notes are fascinating in their own right and his investigative prowess and academic rigour is something to be admired.

Seriously. I am in awe.

If there's any justice in the world, Russell will be head-hunted by an Ivy-League institution as a scholar to be reckoned with, and perhaps the book might become a set text for researchers and scholars for years to come. It might be part of

classroom lessons in Universities and be on essential reading lists for Dante courses. It could drive research fellows to look for those remaining lost manuscripts.

Or it could just be a delightful oddity that has been an absolute joy to work on.

This new edition of *Danteggiare* is that joyful thing because of Russell's enthusiasm, determination, acumen and his sheer excitement in chasing down leads, picking through notes, and ferreting out new versions of those first three lines...

As with Russell, my relationship with Dante has been quite involved, and one of the most joyous things about the development of this book for me, was the connection to so many people who, over the centuries, have been as inspired as we have by *The Divine Comedy*. It's quite a club to be part of.

As Russell said, we decided to choose translations, inspirations, homages and flights of fancy that mentioned at least two of the three elements in the opening tercet: halfway through life, dark woods, and lost path. We stuck to that rigorously, apart from Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle's science fiction version of *Inferno*, which for me it was one of my first encounters with Dante's version of hell. I quickly added the D&AD Dungeon Masters Guide to *Inferno* and a comic book version to my ever deepening knowledge. Only then did I venture into Dorothy L. Sayers' translation. Mostly because I enjoyed her Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries. I was quite the pop-culture boy.

But whatever routes Russell and I have taken, to get here, I think that the book we've made as a result of our own journeys is quite something. Thank you, Russell, for making it happen the way it has, and making it what it is.

B.T.



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